

THE TIMES

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Summit clash between EU and US over measures to cut global warming

Blair hints at green tax rises in Budget

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN DENVER

TONY BLAIR will today hint at a range of green taxes in next month's Budget to improve the environment, cut fuel consumption and help the Government to meet its ambitious new target for reducing global warming.

In a stark message, the Prime Minister will call for a lifestyle revolution that will require every-one in Britain to change their habits. His remarks will be interpreted as a clear signal that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, may target company cars, introduce higher than usual rises in fuel excise duties and bring in other anti-pollution measures.

The last government regularly raised fuel duties by at least 5 per cent in real terms towards meeting the Rio target and Labour seems certain to build on that as part of its green strategy in next month's and future budgets.

Mr Blair will deliver a veiled attack on the United States, Japan and Canada for their failure to live up to the objectives set at the Rio Earth Summit five years ago.

Speaking at a Rio 2 review conference at the United Nations in New York, the Prime Minister will declare that "it is time for the special pleading to stop".

Mr Blair's outspoken remarks in New York come after the refusal of the United States, Canada and Japan to accept the demands of the European Union for tougher targets on carbon dioxide emissions at the Summit of the Eight conference which ended in Denver yesterday.

In one of the most heated debates at an otherwise uncontroversial gathering Mr Blair, Helmut Kohl, Jacques Chirac and other EU leaders pressed their demand for a 15 per cent reduction in the 1990 level of carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2010.

President Clinton dismissed the European target as "unrealistic" but Mr Chirac called the United States "the greatest polluter in the world" because of the greenhouse gases it pumped into the atmosphere.

Mr Blair flew from Denver to New York last night. At the United Nations today he will confirm Britain's target of a 20 per cent reduction by 2010.

Herr Kohl and M Chirac voiced frustration yesterday at the failure of some of the big countries to do enough to cut back on greenhouse gases. Both said it was the biggest issue at the summit. The US declined to accept the EU demands.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, voiced deep disappointment at the outcome. More work on targets will now have to take place at the special summit on climate change at Kyoto, Japan, in December.

Mr Blair will say today that if greenhouse gases continue to rise unabated by 2100 global temperatures will have risen by between 1C and 3.5C and sea levels by a metre. But he will add that Britain's new target will require more efficient use of transport, improved energy consumption and greater use of renewable sources of energy.

Giving an obvious hint about the next and future Budgets he will add: "All of us in the United Kingdom — business, consumers, government and individuals — will need to change our habits, ways of living and doing considerably to achieve it." He will call on the industrialised countries to accept "legally binding" targets setting significant reductions in greenhouse gases during the first decade of the next century.

Then in a clear message to the Americans and Canadians he will say: "The biggest responsibility falls on those countries with the biggest emissions. We in Europe have put our cards on the table. It is time for the special pleading to stop and others to follow suit."

As the argument raged in the summit Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, piled on the pressure outside. He said that neither America or Canada shared the EU's tough approach. He issued a warning that at the present rate of energy consumption the lifestyle of America and elsewhere could not be contained much beyond another quarter of a century without serious effects on the climate.

Last night, the Automobile Association expressed concern at possible higher-than-usual fuel tax increases. A spokesman said British drivers were already among the most highly taxed road users in the world. Petrol and diesel tax increases were designed to raise revenue for the Treasury rather than have any environmental impact.

British drivers are taxed at 41.7p a litre of leaded petrol and 36.9p a litre of unleaded. On average, this means that almost 80 per cent of the price of every litre of fuel goes to the Treasury.



President Clinton welcomes Tony Blair to a dinner in Denver for which world leaders had been asked to dress casually

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Leading article, page 21

Callaghan's secrets at risk under 20-year-rule reform

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A TREASURE trove of secret papers is to be released under plans to reduce the 30-year delay on the publication of state papers.

Many disclosures will be brought forward under a proposal to drop the limit to 20 or 25 years, which will be included in the Freedom of Information White Paper to be published next month. Under the plan, many leading politicians would still be alive when their discussion and decisions were opened to the public.

Under a 20-year rule, for instance, the secrets of the last Labour administration under James Callaghan, now Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, would be among the early releases. Discussions about the economic crisis and the sending of Denis Healey, the former Chancellor, now Lord

Healey, cap in hand to the International Monetary Fund would be of particular interest.

Papers of the period would also give accounts of the "winter of discontent", when strikes by public-sector unions threw the country into chaos, with rubbish piled in the streets and some hospitals unable to admit patients. Ministers refused to declare a state of emergency because they believed that that would antagonise union leaders.

The early days of Margaret Thatcher's tenure at No 10 would be disclosed, as would the information that led to the exposure of Sir Anthony Blunt, former surveyor of the Queen's pictures, as "the fourth man" in the Russian spy ring.

If ministers decide to cut the limit to ten years, the drama of the

Westland helicopter crisis which prompted Michael Heseltine to walk out of Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet would be disclosed.

Ministers will also promise to review papers held indefinitely and those with upper limits of 50 or 75 years. The Public Record Office, which holds most of the government papers, has been asked to provide costings for a speedier release of documents. The government move is certain to bring a new campaign to reduce the limit even more.

Government papers were first made available for release after 50 years under the Public Records Act, 1958. That was amended in 1967 to bring in the 30-year rule. Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 21

Storms bring a threat and a hope

BY JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THUNDERSTORMS drenched record numbers queuing at Wimbledon yesterday, but brought relief to England's cricketers by washing-out play for most of the fourth day of the Lord's Test. At the close Australia were 2137 in reply to England's 77.

At Wimbledon enthusiasts huddled under tents outside the All England Club waiting to see Tim

Henman, Britain's first seeded male since 1982, in his opening singles match on the new No.1 Court today.

More than 12mm of rain fell on the club during the wettest June since 1991. The storms were mainly in the South East, causing problems on many roads.

Rain will threaten the final day of the Test and the start of the 11th tennis championships. The London Weather Centre said today was likely to be "cloudy with

showers." Tuesday was expected to be brighter before a further Atlantic depression arrives.

The first person in the queue for the 500 unreserved seats in the new 11,000-seat No.1 court was Frances Burgess, 37, from Gloucestershire, who had been camping since Friday.

Forecast, page 24
Wimbledon preview, page 25
Test report, page 27

NatWest fights off takeover threat

Lord Alexander, the chairman of NatWest Group, is to fight a rearguard action this week as speculation mounts that the high street bank could be subject to a takeover bid by Barclays or the Bank of Scotland. NatWest has been weakened by problems at its investment bank Marek. Page 48

Sadist returns to attack horses

A sadistic attacker of horses is feared to be back in action after a new spate of incidents in the south of England. Police believe that five attacks in the past three weeks are the work of the person responsible for many of the injuries inflicted on horses during an 18-month period from 1992. Page 3

Russian minister goes in sex scandal

Russia's Justice Minister was forced to step down at the weekend after the press published photographs of him cavorting with naked women at a private sauna frequented by the country's mafia. Page 14

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BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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Pressure grows for Aitken to quit Privy Council

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

CABINET ministers are examining the procedures by which Jonathan Aitken can be stripped of his Privy Counsellor title if he refuses voluntarily to give up the honour.

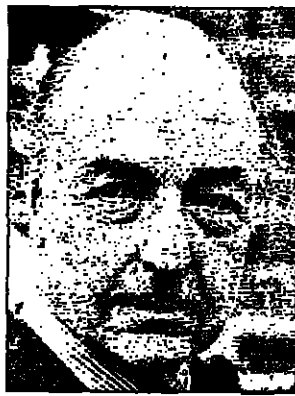
As the clamour grew last night for Mr Aitken to resign the position, which is granted for life by the Queen, it emerged that tentative steps had already been taken which could take the decision out of his hands. It would be only the second time in 75 years that such an action had been taken.

Mr Aitken, who has gone into hiding since the collapse of his libel action over allegations that a Saudi prince had paid his Paris Ritz hotel

bill, is believed to be in the United States. He is then expected to go to his mother's home in Ibiza to write a book about his downfall.

It also emerged yesterday that Mr Aitken was given a chance to withdraw from the action with his reputation intact, only ten days before the general election. Lord Saatchi, the Tories' advertising strategist, acted as an intermediary. He now faces the prospect of imprisonment for perjury. The Crown Prosecution Service has advised *The Guardian*, which is calling for a prosecution, to write to the Metropolitan Police if it wants the matter investigated.

Alan Rusbridger, the editor



Profumo: resigned after affair with a call girl

of *The Guardian*, has sent a letter to Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, seeking an investigation. A spokesman for

Scotland Yard said: "We have received the letter. We are in contact with the newspaper's solicitors. At this stage the matter is not under investigation."

Pressure was growing from senior Tories for Mr Aitken to give up his status as a Privy Counsellor and the accompanying title of Right Honourable. They said he had lost all sympathy after it emerged he was prepared to let his wife and teenage daughter go into the witness box and lie.

The issue is on the Government's agenda. One minister said: "People have already begun to look at the procedures involved in stripping someone of the title. Decisions have not been taken, but we have established that the Privy

Council can be asked to take up the matter."

Only the Queen has the power to strip a Privy Counsellor of office, but in effect the decision would be taken by members of the Cabinet, who are Privy Counsellors. The Leader of the Opposition would also be consulted.

Lord Blake, the constitutional historian, said: "I would have thought that the likelihood is he would resign. It would be inconceivable if he did not."

Alan Clark, the Tory MP who is one of his closest friends, said: "I would not have been so generous in defending him on Newsnight had I been aware of the way he used his daughter during the trial." But there was support

for Mr Aitken from the Labour MP Austin Mitchell who has been a friend for 30 years. He said: "Jonathan is a man of honour. It is a tragedy for him and his family."

Lord Rees, the former Labour Home Secretary, said: "I would have thought it was very difficult for him to remain as a Privy Counsellor."

The last time a Privy Counsellor was struck off was in 1921 when Sir Edgar Speyer was removed after being convicted of collaborating with the Germans.

John Profumo, the War Minister, who lied to Parliament about his affair with a call girl in 1963, and John Stonehouse, the former Labour Minister convicted of theft in 1976, both resigned.

Brown prepares for early funding switch

Gordon Brown is ready to switch spending from welfare to education as early as next year in the first sign of a relaxation in the rigid line on expenditure taken by Labour up to the general election (Philip Webster writes). Amid warnings that teachers may have to be made redundant, ministers have to emphasise that they are ready to be "flexible" if the welfare-to-work programme to be unveiled next week in the Budget finds savings. But Mr Brown and his officials say ministers would still have to stick to the spending limits set by the Tories. Mr Brown decided before the election that there would be no ministerial spending round this year.

Denver summit, page 12

New school scrapped

The Government has allowed Labour-controlled Milton Keynes Borough Council to scrap plans for the first newly-built grammar school for 30 years. Governors of the proposed school failed on Friday to stop the move in the High Court but were given leave for judicial review in the autumn. However, as the governing body was dissolved by Milton Keynes on Wednesday, they will have to raise funds personally for further hearings.

Aircraft radiation 'safe'

The Dutch airline KLM maintained yesterday that radiation levels on one of its planes flying from Amsterdam to Heathrow on May 2 were inside legal limits. The *Observer* had reported that defective medical equipment had exposed passengers to "a year's medical dose of radiation". A KLM spokesman said passengers were not told about the incident because there was no risk. The Civil Aviation Authority said that an international investigation was being carried out.

Army promotes women

Women are to be given more opportunities in the Army, taking them closer to the frontline. John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, is not planning to allow female combat soldiers, but there are likely to be more roles for women in frontline units, such as the Royal Engineers. The Army has been reviewing the issue since early last year and Dr Reid is expected to make an announcement about new roles for female soldiers in the next few weeks.

Crime costs NHS £200m

Fraud is costing the NHS up to £200 million a year, yet a quarter of it is not reported to police, according to a study of 32 health authorities by the Healthcare Financial Management Association. The report shows that the standard NHS prescription form is easily falsified by doctors, patients and chemists. Unscrupulous pharmacists are suspected of making £23 million by dispensing low cost medicines without prescriptions.

Kidnap 'bride' raped

A British woman is due to give evidence in Kenitra today, saying how she was imprisoned for three days and gang-raped after refusing to marry a Moroccan man so he could settle in Britain. The 44-year-old woman from Birmingham had gone to visit the man and his family, but found that he allegedly wanted to marry her in order that he could be legally entitled to return with her. She managed to escape and alert the police and British Embassy.

Clarke offered soccer job

Kenneth Clarke, the defeated Tory leadership contender and keen Nottingham Forest fan, has been offered the chairmanship of the football club's holding company, Nigel Wray, owner of the club, which has been relegated from the Premiership, has asked the former Chancellor, who is MP for Rushcliffe, in Nottinghamshire, if he would oversee the club's stock market flotation later this year. Mr Clarke was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Clarke in pledge to behave like Heath

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE has vowed to model his return to the backbenches on the brooding presence of Sir Edward Heath, who never came to terms with Margaret Thatcher replacing him as Tory leader.

The prospect of the former Chancellor copying the former Prime Minister's long guerrilla campaign will dismay many Tory MPs. They had hoped that the leadership contest, and unexpectedly decisive margin of victory by William Hague, would end internal disputes. But it will hearen MPs on the pro-European wing of the party who are deeply concerned by the Eurosceptic make-up of the Shadow Cabinet.

The decision to put Peter Lilley, one of the most prominent rightwingers, in charge of a wide-ranging policy review has fuelled fears that the party has returned to a Thatcherite agenda.

The presence on the backbenches of Mr Clarke, joined by the pro-European John Gummer, who was dropped from the frontbench, was always going to be a source of anxiety to the new leadership. Mr Clarke told a friend: "I am going to model myself on Ted in the early days of Margaret."

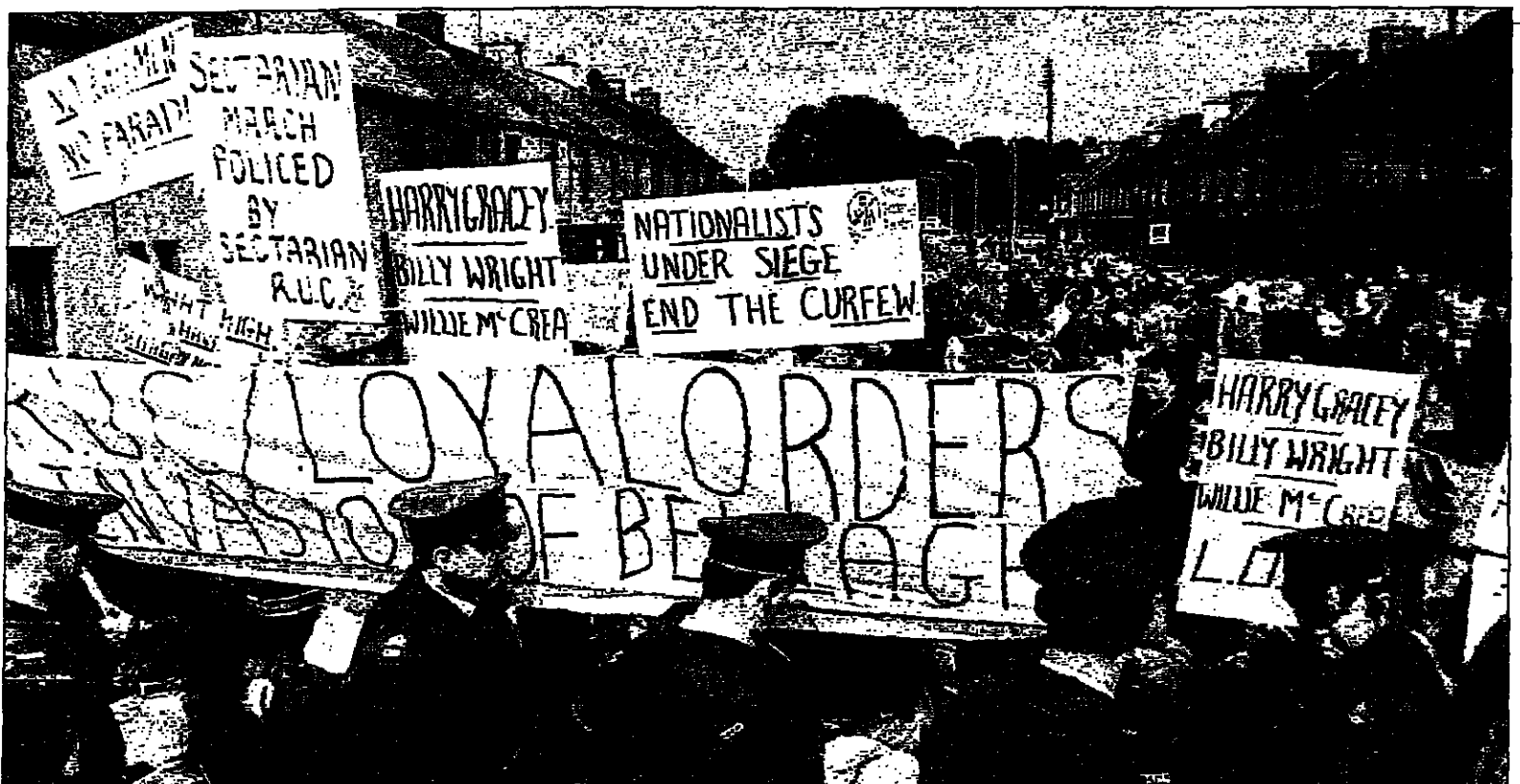
Europe is expected to be the flashpoint between Mr Clarke and Mr Hague. Clarke supporter said yesterday: "Ken wishes William well. But anyone who knows Ken will know that he will not be able to stay silent on Europe."

Hague names Shadow Cabinet

William Hague, the new Conservative Party leader, has announced his Shadow Cabinet:

Shadow Chancellor: Peter Lilley (with overall responsibility for development of party policy)
Foreign Secretary: Michael Howard
Home Secretary: Dr Brian Mawhinney
Party Chairman: Lord Parkinson
Education and Employment Secretary: Stephen Dorrell
Shadow Leader: Gillian Shephard (also shadows the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)
Leader of the Lords: Lord Cranbourne
Defence Secretary: Sir George Young
Trade and Industry Secretary: John Redwood
Environment, Transport and the Regions: Sir

Norman Fowler
Constitutional Affairs Spokesman: Michael Ancram (with overall responsibility for Scottish and Welsh issues)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister: David Curry
International Development Secretary: Alastair Goodlad
Chief Secretary to the Treasury: David Heathcoat-Amory
National Heritage Secretary: Francis Maude
Northern Ireland Secretary: Andrew Mackay
Health Secretary: John Maples
Social Security Secretary: Iain Duncan Smith
Commons Chief Whip: James Arbuthnot
Lords Chief Whip: Lord Strathclyde



Marching orders: nationalist residents in Bellaghy yesterday prevented an Orange Order parade from passing through their village

Blair tells Americans that IRA cannot stop peace process

By Phil Webster in Denver and Nicholas Watt

Tony Blair made a direct appeal for help and support from the American public in his efforts to find peace in Northern Ireland

TONY BLAIR told the American people yesterday how his determination to seek peace in Ulster had been renewed by a child who wrote to him imploring him to find a solution.

The Prime Minister used a nationwide ABC interview to step up his campaign to persuade Americans to stop supporting Sinn Féin after lengthy talks at the Denver summit with President Clinton. His intervention came as a contentious Orange parade passed off peacefully yesterday when loyalists complied with a police order which restricted their march through

the mainly Catholic village of Bellaghy, Co Londonderry.

Mr Blair said the people of Northern Ireland were desperate for peace. Referring to the IRA ceasefire that ended last year, he said: "When there was peace for that year or more and President Clinton came and visited Northern Ireland I can't tell you what it meant to families and peoples on the streets. I got a letter from a little girl just a couple of days ago who just said to

me 'Do whatever you can for peace in Northern Ireland. I've only had one year of peace in my life.'"

Mr Blair told Mr Clinton of the strenuous efforts that had been made by the Government, before last week's murders in Lurgan of two policemen, to bring Sinn Féin into the peace process. He told him that the Government had been ready to bring Sinn Féin into talks six weeks after the IRA declared a ceasefire and that

the killings had clearly been intended to prevent that.

In his interview yesterday Mr Blair said there were parts of American opinion that had not understood how isolated the IRA were. He said that America under Mr Clinton was now helping the situation and he said that there was now very little prospect of Mr Clinton receiving Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, again while Sinn Féin continued to play with violence.

Mr Clinton said yesterday after meeting Mr Blair that he was appalled at the murders of the two policemen a few days ago. "The ball is now in Sinn Féin's court."

Mr Blair gave warning that if Sinn Féin did not come into the peace process they could not hold it to ransom. "They can't sit there and say we're not going to let anyone else talk about a peace settlement. If they don't face up to their responsibility we have got to face up to ours and take the process forward."

Yesterday, police mounted a huge security operation in Bellaghy to prevent sectarian clashes after nationalists said that they would oppose the

annual parade which usually passes through the whole village. The peaceful outcome in Bellaghy will raise hopes that Northern Ireland will avoid a repeat of last summer's serious disturbances at the most contentious parade of the year which takes place in just under two weeks at Drumcree, Co Armagh.

Martin McGuinness was highly critical yesterday of the Prime Minister's decision to cut off talks following last week's IRA murder of two policemen in Northern Ireland. Mr McGuinness, a senior Sinn Féin strategist, said that the Prime Minister was going down the wrong track if he and other politicians tried to exclude Sinn Féin from the talks process. He said that the Government should not be "eyeballing us".

Speaking at Sinn Féin's annual commemoration ceremony at the Co Kildare graveside of Irish Republican patriot Wolfe Tone, Mr McGuinness said that he realised that his party was being given one last chance to achieve an IRA ceasefire and that his party was not giving up on its peace strategy.

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Offer also applies to spouses

Beef ban 'may last extra year'

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE European Union's ban on British beef may still be in place in a year's time, Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday. Trying to set a deadline for lifting the ban would not be sensible and the more realistic prospect was that the embargo might be relaxed in a piecemeal way. Exports worth more than £500 million a year have been blocked since late March, 1996, when the Tory Government disclosed that "mad cow" disease might have caused a new strain of the fatal human brain condition, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Speaking on BBC TV's *On The Record*, Dr Cunningham said it was "possible" the ban would still be in force a year from now, adding: "I think it is realistic to expect that the ban may be lifted in a stepwise fashion — some products, some herds, some animals born after a certain date may have the ban lifted."

Dr Cunningham is under pressure from the farming community to get the ban lifted at least for meat from cattle born since last August.

Secrets

Continued from page 1
Papers may be held for longer than 30 years if they are exceptionally sensitive and disclosure would be against the public interest; if they contained information supplied in confidence; or if they contained information about individuals that would cause distress or endanger lives. This applies to national security, international relations, defence or the country's economic interests.

David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, has announced that the Bill will be included in the next Queen's Speech and could become law early in 1999. At present, the sifting of documents is usually carried out by retired senior civil servants. One said last night: "It would be a huge task and people would have to be called in for a considerable period to get on top of the process. But if ministers drop the rule to ten years, I suspect a committee of the Privy Council would decide [on] controversial releases."

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, the former Cabinet Secretary, said last night: "If the Government do wish to lower the limit, I think that custom and convention would dictate that if you change the rules on Cabinet papers, former prime ministers should be consulted."

Leading article, page 21

Which bank gives you a choice of 130 corporate business centres?

NatWest

More than just a bank

National Westminster Bank Plc, 11 Leadenhall, London EC3P 2BP

COMPANY CAR DRIVER COMPETITION UPDATE

Stephen chooses the right route to victory

THE importance of planning your route to avoid a last-minute panic and desperate driving achieved extra significance for Stephen Robson in The Times/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition, Tony Dawe writes.

His expert choice of roads and accurate timing for a theoretical business trip was the decisive factor which enabled him to win the final heat in Coventry.

He scored seven points more on the exercise than runner-up Ian Perry, who finished six points behind overall. They were neck and neck on the other tests which included braking, manoeuvring, fault-finding and on-the-road motoring.

Stephen's expertise was hardly surprising. He used to be the route planner for a fleet of heavy lorries delivering goods for Linpac Plastics before taking over as depot manager at Featherstone, Yorkshire.

"I still enjoy the challenge of planning a journey with 20 or 30 deliveries to different parts of the country, but the company prefers to use a computer to do the job now," he said. "My present job has cut down my company mileage to about 10,000 a year. But I still take a pride in my driving and enjoy taking my wife and two small boys to theme parks and the Lancashire and Yorkshire coasts."

Graham Edwards, winner of the other Coventry heat, is an equally enthusiastic driver and covers 45,000 miles a year in his Renault Laguna as a technical salesman for the Adhe-



Robson: "The company uses a computer for the job now"



Edwards: safety should be a priority for company drivers

sives Division of National Star and Chemicals, based at Slough.

"I am on the safety action group which is keen for company drivers to regard safety as a top priority," he said. "We undergo driver training with Drive Tech and 40 of the 60 regular company car drivers at

Slough have passed tests set by the Institute of Advanced Motorists or ROSPA."

Graham's main concern now is that his wife, Barbara, who is expecting their second child in mid-July, does not deliver early and interrupt his appearance in the final of the competition at Silverstone on July 4.

Travel in Atlantique style

A new generation of supercars is about to arrive in Britain.

Tony Dawe reports

The launch in Britain this week of the race-bred, French-built Venturi Atlantique confirms that supercar salesmen believe the nation is ready once more for models with speed and style. The Atlantique will be followed by the Nissan Skyline GT-R, the first "budget" supercar, expected to retail at around £50,000.

Just to emphasise that elegance is all in Royal Ascot week, Aston Martin Lagonda has unveiled a derivative of the DB7, created exclusively for Alfred Dunhill and complete with a humidor for carrying fine cigars, a set of the company's carbon fibre pens and a Dunhill Millennium watch set in the fascia panel.

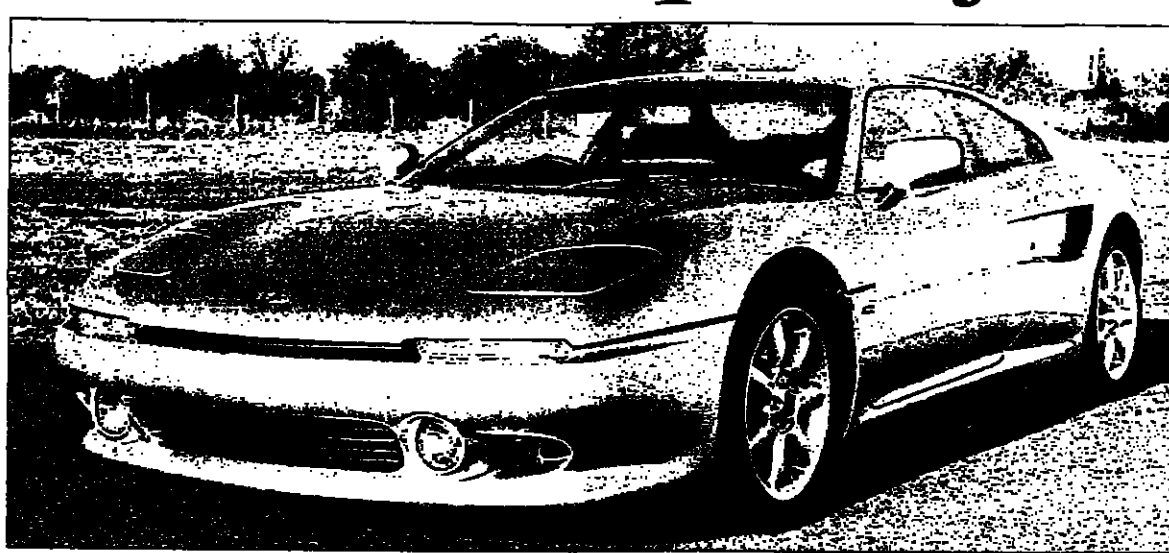
The two-seat interior of the Atlantique features traditional full leather trim and walnut, but most enthusiasts will be more excited by its power, provided by an all-alloy 3-litre turbocharged V6 engine. This produces 281bhp at 5,300rpm, enabling acceleration to 60mph in 5.5 seconds and a top speed of 174mph.

The supercar boasts a composite glassfibre body bonded to a separate steel chassis and is hand-built in a new factory at Coueron on the banks of the Loire near Nantes. Its pedigree includes a racing background and six finishes out of eight starts in the Le Mans 24-hour race.

The man behind its arrival is Nicholas Mee, a former Aston Martin sales executive who now runs his own dealership in South Kensington, west London. He has taken delivery of the first right-hand drive Atlantique and predicts a waiting list of six to eight weeks for the £59,570 car.

"The new factory is currently building 250 annually and I would be delighted to take 10 per cent of that number," he said. "The car is exceedingly quick without being temperamental or excessively thirsty, is an absolute delight to drive and very attractive."

The Skyline, which has only been available in Japan, will be unveiled at the London Motor Show and on sale in Britain from November 1 — with supply limited to 100. The "budget" supercar is also powered by a race-proven engine, a 2.6-litre, straight six,



Venturi Atlantique: leather trim and walnut powered by a 174mph all-alloy 3-litre turbocharged V6 engine



Alfred Dunhill DB7: a humidor for fine cigars, a set of carbon fibre pens and a Dunhill Millennium watch



Skyline GT-R: the "budget" supercar, expected to cost around £50,000

24-valve unit capable of around 280bhp at 6,800rpm. It also features advanced vehicle control systems including four-wheel drive and Nissan's Super HICAS four-wheel steering system.

Brian Carolin, Nissan's marketing director, said: "Getting behind the wheel of the Skyline GT-R is one of the great driving experiences. We see it as a standard bearer for the rest of our range of vehicles."

The Alfred Dunhill DB7 will defi-

nately not be for sale but will go on display at a series of company events worldwide this year. In addition to the humidor and carbon fibre pens, it displays design features from other Dunhill products incorporated in door handles, surround for the boot release, gear lever and wheel centres.

"We hope that this is just the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between our companies," Bob Dover, Aston Martin chairman, said. "We are both traditional British companies with unique expertise, pedigree and experience in the design, manufacture and sale of bespoke tailored products."

But he knows that the French and Japanese are eager to challenge this reputation for style.

MERCEDES

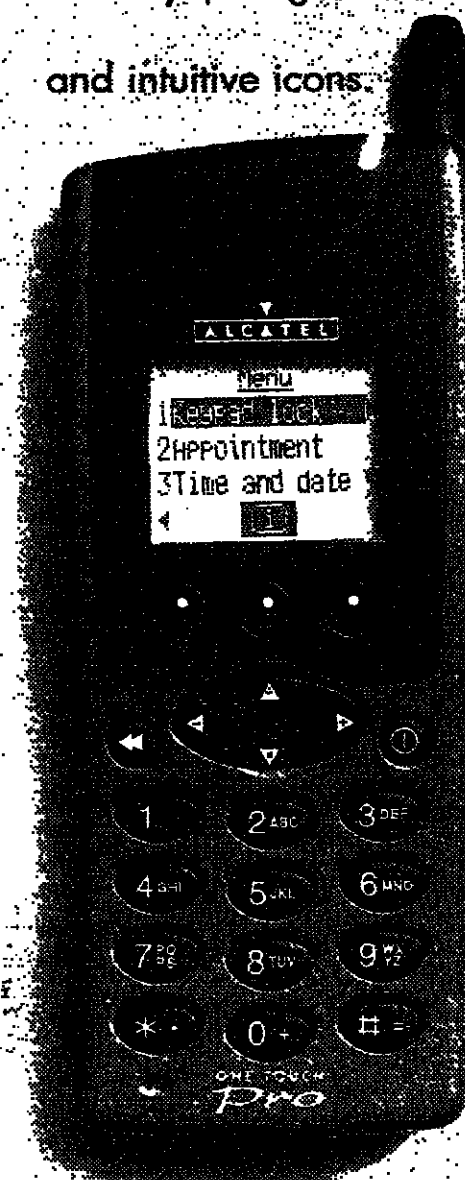
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شركة الاتصالات

Watchdog broke BBC rules over outside funding

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
AND CAROL MIDDLEY

THE BBC has claimed more than £300,000 from the European Commission to fund the *Watchdog* consumer show, in breach of internal rules banning it from receiving money from outside sources.

The corporation changed editorial policy guidelines relating to external funding after it emerged that two prime-time programmes had received a total of more than £400,000 over five years from an obscure European fund.

At the time the money was claimed, BBC rules designed to protect the corporation's independence and integrity stipulated that programme makers must not accept outside funding for "programmes with any controversial or political content".

Insiders believe that producers may have been tempted to apply for the money because of an efficiency drive to reduce overheads, introduced by John Birt, the Director-General.

Watchdog, a journalism-based programme presented by Anne Robinson, aims to expose bad practice. It regularly courts controversy and last year had more complaints upheld against it than any other BBC show.

Crimewatch, another top-rating programme dealing with sensitive factual information, which is hosted by Jill Dando and Nick Ross, also



Robinson presents the consumer programme

applied for and received £85,000 from the same European fund before the rule change.

Yesterday the BBC admitted that the two programmes had taken European money in the past, but denied contravening BBC guidelines at the time. Those guidelines, which applied until November 1996, stipulated that outside funding should be used for educational programmes and not those with any political or sensitive content.

The rules were tightened in 1996 to ensure that only programmes made by BBC Education, World Service Radio or the Regional Broadcasting Service could accept outside cash.

A BBC spokesman said: "Watchdog has received money in the past from the EC to fund the making of programmes relating to Euro-

pean law and consumer affairs, but it is nothing like the figure quoted. But it was before these new guidelines came into the frame and the funding did stop more than a year ago.

"Crimewatch did receive a small sum to fund a crime prevention video, but this is still only at the planning stage."

Documents obtained from the European Commission show that *Watchdog* was awarded 464,226 ecus (£322,000) between 1992 and 1996. *Crimewatch*, which like *Watchdog* is made by the corporation's consumer and leisure unit, received its grant of more than £85,000 in 1996.

The money comes from a fund in the consumer policy directorate, designed to provide grants for projects that promote good consumer practice. Jens Nyman Christensen, head of the directorate, said that the commission had not been aware that the grants breached the BBC's own rules.



Guang Yang, who was once a textile worker, thanked her former workmates for their part in her success

Chinese mezzo wins Singer of the World

By MARK HENDERSON

A CHINESE mezzo-soprano whose factory workmates covered for her while she took lessons has won the Cardiff Singer of the World competition.

Guang Yang, 26, set St David's Hall alight with a sparkling performance of the closing aria from Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. Her other pieces in Saturday night's final were two Schubert songs and an aria from Thomas's *Mignon*. She won £10,000 and will sing in a concert at the Barbican.

She took up singing in 1991, while working in a factory in Beijing. "I think this title belongs to everybody who helped me to achieve this," she said yesterday. "What excites me is not the result but to entertain the audience."

Guang, who graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing last July, is to continue her studies in China, although she has already received offers to tour.

England's Christopher Maltman, a 37-year-old baritone, won the Lieder Prize.

Richard Morrison, page 18

Teachers say Virgin is being too lippy

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS have made a formal complaint over an advertisement for the Virgin Lips soft drinks, in which a spoof notice from the "National Association of Teachers" announces a Naked Sports Day.

The risqué advertisement has appeared in two teenage magazines. The National Union of Teachers has complained to the Advertising Standards Authority, and the union's general secretary, Doug McAvoy, has written to Virgin's chairman, Richard Branson, accusing the company of undermining efforts to promote higher standards among young people.

Mr McAvoy said: "Teachers and parents are increasingly concerned at the exploitation of young people and the destruction of their innocence for commercial purposes. The advertisement

is in appalling bad taste, particularly when the age range of readers of these magazines is taken into account. Its attempt at humour is merely cheap innuendo."

The advert was carried by the *Nintendo Magazine* and *Sugar*, which is read mainly by teenage girls. It carries the slogan "Wet yourself with Virgin Lips" and suggests asking a teacher about the event.

A Virgin spokesman said: "Richard Branson knew nothing about this ad. It is purely a piece of humour and, if we have offended anyone, we apologise. But we find the NUT's concern impossible to understand and we are confident that the ASA will take the same attitude."

Virgin said that there had been 3,500 calls to a number given in the advertisement, but no other complaints.

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Labour Roundheads decline chance of Wimbledon freebie

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

CABINET ministers and Labour MPs will be thin on the ground at the Wimbledon tennis championships over the next fortnight. Companies eager to cultivate the new Government in corporate hospitality mar- quees have met a distinctly cool response from an administration wary of public sensitivity to allegations of free-loading.

Few Labour MPs were seen at Royal Ascot and Lord's as the party's anti-sleaze image, and the stiffer requirements on accepting gifts in the wake of the Nolan committee's report, has led to caution.

Charles Miller, a director of the Public Policy Unit, a parliamentary lobbying company, said yesterday that his clients had received a series of polite refusals from ministers' Civil Service minders. "We are certainly finding that organisations



that have invited ministers to these things have in the main been refused. At least initially in this administration, MPs, particularly ministers, are being quite careful about where they are seen to be. It's not that it's wrong to hobnob with business and industry, it is the way in which it is done," he said. "They do not want to be seen doing anything other than rolling up their

sleeves at the moment, and certainly not going off on corporate jollies."

The approach also saw Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, refuse to wear evening dress at a recent banquet. "I think there has been an invisible diktat from Labour headquarters that it would look bad if they were seen swanning around Glyndebourne, Wimbledon and places like that," Mr Miller said.

Wimbledon itself, sensitive to accusations of squeezing out "real" fans, has cut the number of corporate hospitality marquees on its grounds from 46 in 1991 to 39 this year. Although big business accounts for less than 10 per cent of the tickets, the hospitality market is still booming.

Off the site, the overspill of bankers, brokers and other business guests is absorbed by acres of marquees belonging to the entertainment specialists Keith Prowse, SportsWorld and Mike Burton Corporate Hospitality.

Persistent heavy rain yesterday saw crowds of part-time workers scurrying to lay duckboards across the swampy ground and put the final touches to the renamed Barker, Durie and Wade Debutante Holders' car parks. Others supervised the installation of hanging gardens, flower boxes and menus promising chisley, watercress and walnut salads, scotch salmon, dressed crab and apricot *bonne femme* dessert.

Customers will this year have to pay £1.85 for ten British strawberries and cream, 5p up from last year, and £5.70 for a pint of Pimm's.

Sir Michael Spicer, Tory MP for West Worcestershire and captain of the Commons and Lords tennis team, said that fewer Tory MPs also seemed to be going to Wimbledon than before. He said: "I think MPs are far more wary of accepting corporate hospitality of this sort now, especially at Wimbledon."

Tony Wright, Labour MP for Cannock Chase and a keen tennis player, said that he had not been asked to go to Wimbledon. "I have foolishly hoped that one day someone might offer me a ticket. If there is an opening in the market, I am ready to be incorruptibly invited to go."

He said the new make-up of the Commons meant "it is now full of ordinary people who are used to paying for going to see something", and fewer would be going to the great social sporting events.

Another Labour MP said he would love to go to Wimbledon but did not feel he was able to in the new political climate. "We are Roundheads now," he said.



Blair served new challenge

Tony Blair has become chairman of the Commons and Lords Tennis Club, replacing Sir John Hannam, the former Conservative MP for Exeter, who stood down after the general election. The Prime Minister is a keen tennis player and often plays a game with his family and friends at the weekends. Sir Michael Spicer, the captain of the club, said he hoped that Mr Blair would join other MPs and peers in their annual competition with the All England Club's veterans, which takes place soon after the finish of Wimbledon fortnight.



No 1 Court at Wimbledon being covered during the rain yesterday

GPs keep mentally disabled patients off books

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY doctors are dropping patients with learning disabilities from their lists because they take too much time to treat, according to a survey published today by Mencap, the mental health charity.

"In general practice you get paid a capitation fee," the report says. "You get your quota for each patient, so if you are doing a dozen house calls a year, it is not good economics from the general practice point of view."

On average each GP has about 36 patients on their list with learning disabilities, of whom about seven are likely to be severe cases. The move away from long-stay mental institutions to community care means that GPs are seeing more cases. Yet, the report says, they are undertrained to deal with them.

The survey, among 1,875 GPs, found only a few cases of doctors withdrawing care, but it was generally acknowledged that this has been happening since 1994. Doctors are also less likely to take on new patients suffering with learning disabilities.

The report cites one case where a doctor in Birmingham removed seven out of eight patients in a Mencap home from his list. The one kept on was the only one not on medication.

Fiona Burke, who manages a Mencap home in Ilford, east London, said that three years ago, when she was at another home in the area, six patients were suddenly told to find a new GP after an emergency call for an evening visit.

Ms Burke said: "Then there was the problem of finding a new GP. I personally called about ten surgeries and, in five cases, they said they had room. But the attitude changed tremendously as soon as they heard where the patients were from."

"Suddenly I was told they couldn't take any more people. One actually said, 'We don't take people with learning difficulties.' Others said, 'We don't have to give a reason.' I think the problem is that, for so many years, these people were in institutions and GPs didn't have to deal with them."



Fry: hates his looks

Fry tells how near he came to suicide

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE actor and writer Stephen Fry is to disclose how he came within a second of turning on his car ignition and trying to kill himself with exhaust fumes.

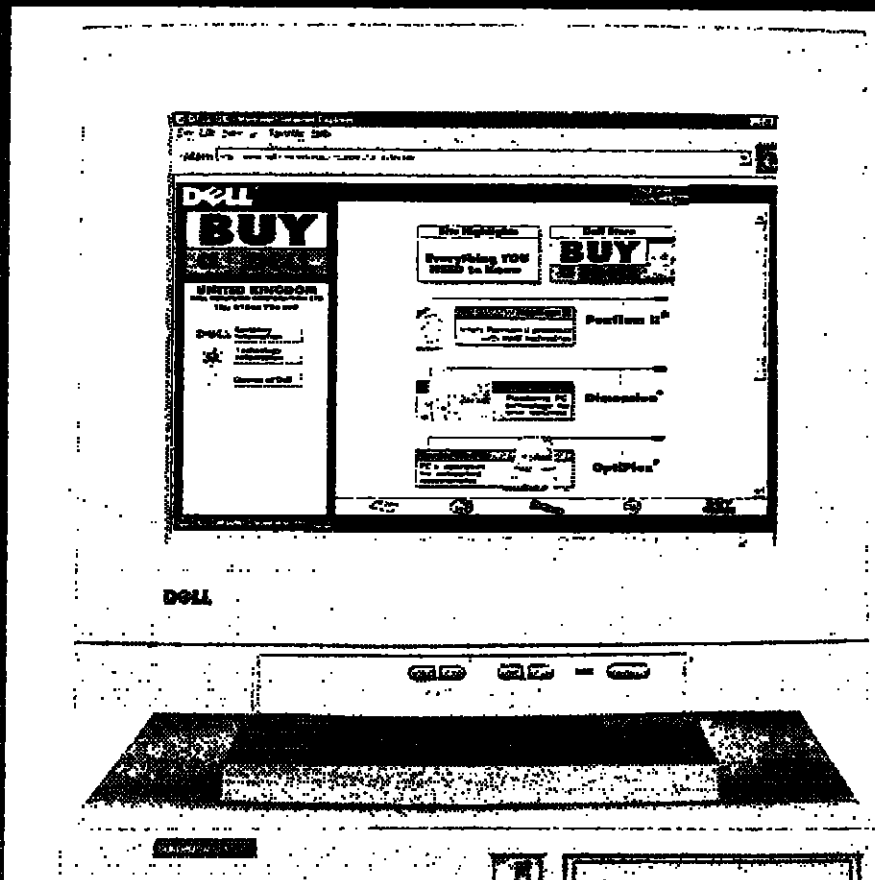
The admission comes during an interview for BBC Radio 4's *In The Psychiatrist's Chair*, to be broadcast on Sunday, and within his memoirs, to be published in October. Fry discloses how close he came to committing suicide after his dramatic exit from the play *Cell Mates* two years ago. He was said to have fled the stage after wounding reviews. It was, he says, only a vision of his parents that prevented him from going through with the attempt.

Fry, whose film about Oscar Wilde opens later this year, tells the psychiatrist Anthony Clare: "I had my hand on the key and a duvet cover around the car door so that the exhaust fumes would be kept in. I was deeply, deeply unhappy and lonely." Yet, he recalls, he felt that he had no right to be unhappy, particularly as people kept telling him how successful he was.

On the programme he also discloses how he realised he was homosexual while still at school, after a platonic crush on a fellow pupil. In the interview, he talks of homosexual affairs and, more recently, a stable relationship.

He also says that he feels disgusted by his appearance, dislikes his "gangly and uncoordinated" body and has doubts about his intelligence.

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Dentists on alert for child abuse

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEARNING to detect child abuse should become a part of dental training, according to an expert who gave evidence at the trial of Rosemary West.

Dr David Whitaker, reader in forensic dentistry and consultant at Cardiff Dental Hospital, told delegates to the British Dental Association annual conference: "We see children from the age of a few months right up to the time they are teenagers, and we get to know them in a way that their doctors never do."

"We see them when they are fit and well, so it is easier for us to notice a change in attitude that shows they are being abused even if there are no obvious signs of injury."

He said that about 4,000 of the 10,000 children who suffer abuse each year had injuries to the facial area, and it was possible to notice bruising from pinching on legs and arms when a child was sitting in the dentist's chair.

"We need to train new dentists to identify this as part of their regular course," he said. "Dentists in America already have a statutory duty to look out for signs that a young patient is being mistreated. Dental schools here have no formal slot for this kind of training, but we need it. Gross decay is often a pointer to a child not being properly looked after."

Hundreds of fakes found in library's Chinese collection

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Library has discovered up to 600 fakes in its important collection of "ancient" Chinese manuscripts. New tests have revealed that they are the work of 20th-century forgers.

Earlier this century, it has emerged, library staff were duped into acquiring scrolls supposedly dating from AD 400 to 1025. Genuine items would be worth tens of thousands of pounds today.

Susan Whitfield, the British Library's curator of Chinese manuscripts, said that some may have been manufactured in a massive forging operation run by a Chinese collector whose eminent reputation gave him a respectability that buyers did not question. Shengduo Li's activities lasted from 1911 until the 1950s, and began when he persuaded a Chinese official to divert to his house an ox cart transporting a large collection of real

manuscripts from the Silk Road site of Dunhuang to the National Library of China.

Forged copies were later reproduced by the hundred. Serial numbers on the authentic manuscripts were altered to tally with the forgeries. After his death in 1935, Li's eight sons carried on the business.

The fakes are scrolls imitating the authentic examples and range up to 70ft long. Dr Whitfield said: "They are surprisingly long. You'd think they'd be short ones." They primarily feature Buddhist sermons and canonical texts.

In authenticating the collection, part of the library's research centres on dyes, paper and ink. They have drawn on the expertise of Kenneth Seddon, Professor of Chemistry at Queen's University of Belfast, who has developed a new analysis. Dr Whitfield said: "Previous methods to discover what

paper or textiles were dyed with had been destructive. He's developed an undestructive technique which can analyse an area of just 3mm by 1mm."

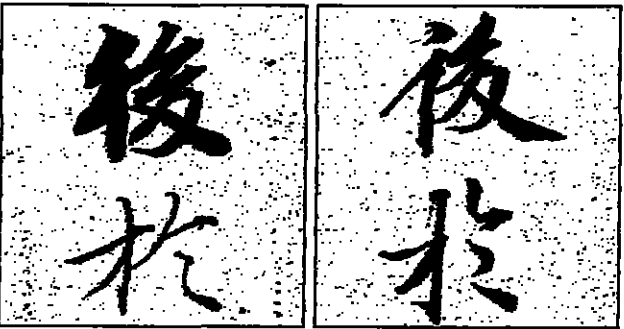
Most of the manuscripts have a yellow dye — the Buddhist colour signifying solemnity. Every genuine manuscript has been found to have been dyed with a substance from the bark of the amur cork tree. The forgeries all fail the test: scholars have yet to establish the substance used.

Demand for ancient treasures is keeping modern forgers in business. Dr Whitfield said that 95 per cent of manuscripts on the market from before AD 1000 were forgeries.

In fairness to her predecessors, the British Library has 15,000 manuscripts in the entire collection and is not alone in having been duped over the past century.

The library is staging the first international conference on such forgeries. It includes a public lecture on July 3 at the School of Oriental and African Studies in Russell Square.

The subject is sensitive. Dr Whitfield said that Japan refused to accept that mistakes were made. Professor Akira Fujieda, of Kyoto University, who is coming to the conference, believes that his chapter on forgeries was omitted by government publishers from a 1965 catalogue on Kyoto's Dunhuang collection.



A forgery, left, and the real thing: inconsistency in the thickness of strokes is one of the differences



It fell off the back of an ox cart: a fake, top, and a real scroll proven in dye tests

Common land may be fenced by trust

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE National Trust has proved its right to fence any of its 159,500 acres of common land, amounting to about 8 per cent of the total in England and Wales.

The verdict ends a long-standing dispute over the interpretation of the law between the trust and the Open Spaces Society. Mr Justice Lindsay ruled in the High Court that the 1971 National Trust Act had "clear and unambiguous" powers to fence its common land, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The dispute arose over plans by to erect 1,800 yards of wooden fence alongside a section of the A39 in the Quantock Hills near Bridgewater, Somerset. Fencing is needed, according to the trust, to prevent cattle, sheep and ponies from straying onto the road.

The Open Spaces Society says the trust should employ shepherds to protect the animals, rather than put up fencing. Ramblers will still have physical access to the land over 12 stiles, but their sense of freedom would be "psychologically" diminished, said the society's chairwoman, Kate Ashbrook.

"We are disappointed that so much common land is now at risk of being fenced," she said. Trust officials said the power would be exercised only "as a last resort".

The case turned on whether the trust was still bound by the 1907 National Trust Act, which prohibits it from "enclosing" any of its common land-holding, or whether this had been modified by the 1971 Act. The judge said that fencing commons had been "regarded with repugnance" since at least the time of Elizabeth I, but the 1907 Act had come into force in an age "when the motor car was still young". It was clear that the 1971 Act had conferred power to fence common lands.

Writers book in for literature's £1m answer to the Proms

BY DALYA ALBERGE

THE writer Doris Lessing, the director Sir Richard Eyre and the bookseller Tim Waterstone are among leading figures who are establishing the literary world's answer to the Proms.

The ten-day London Festival of Literature, to be launched in 1999, promises to be Europe's largest event of its kind. Writers

from all over the world will celebrate written and oral work throughout the city, from Clapham to Cockfosters. Readings, talks and experimental workshops will reach out to the youngest readers as well as seasoned bibliophiles, while screenings, stage events and exhibitions will blur boundaries between art forms.

Lessing, whose books include *The Grass Is Singing*, said: "I am sure people will

come from everywhere and, like myself, look forward to celebrating literature and the city. It's not just literature, but all types of things — storytelling, film, television, dance and music."

Tim Waterstone, who founded the Waterstone's chain and whose adventurous children's stores, Daisy & Tom, open in London next month, said: "This is an enormous opportunity for London. It will

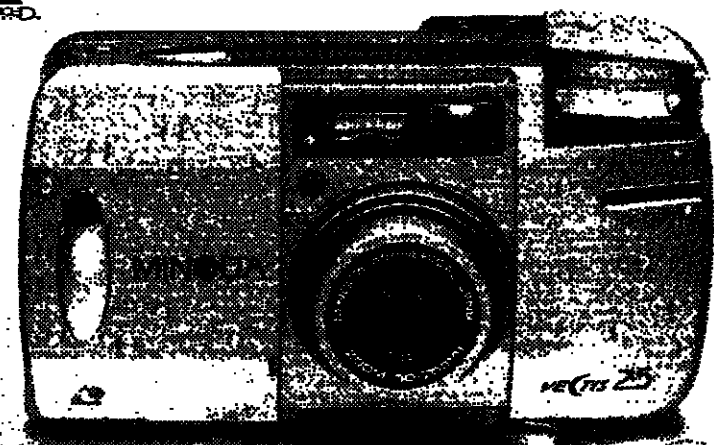
gather people from all over the world and, like the Proms, be on an enormous scale."

A festival director is yet to be appointed. John Hampson, principal literature officer of the London Arts Board, said: "One of the elements we'd like is a masterclass for an established writer to work intensively for two or three days with three or four younger, but published, writers. There are programmes of writers in schools and the

festival could really enhance that work and people like Ray Davies will give creative writing workshops on the lyrics of popular music."

The venture is backed by the Arts Council, the London Arts Board and the London Tourist Board, among other organisations contributing about £1 million.

Arts, pages 18, 19



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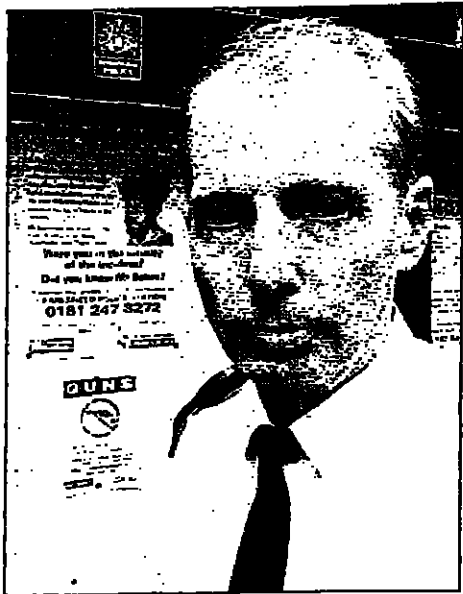


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Pick your own policemen, Brixton told

Community offered say in recruitment as fears of gun law increase



O'Brien said police might be able to learn from a new approach

By DANIEL MCGROARY

A DRAMATIC increase in armed street crime has prompted senior policemen to offer a community a say in choosing its own officers.

Muggers and burglars in Brixton, south London, routinely carry firearms and, after the fatal shootings of two men in recent weeks, senior officers are anxious to calm local fears and to restore confidence in the force.

They are suggesting that, for the first time in Britain, the largely black community should be involved in police recruitment. The proposal has received a qualified blessing from leading figures at Scotland Yard, but has been dismissed by most officers on the beat.

Community leaders in Brixton have criticised the police for not doing enough to curb the spate of shootings: this month a 14-year-old boy was critically wounded

when a gunman shot him through his front door. A prominent community leader said: "If this had happened in Chelsea or Hampstead all hell would be let loose, but in Brixton no one bothers."

Black leaders say that taking part in police recruitment would be a way to improve community confidence in the force. Some want to select which beat officers patrol their streets. They also want to veto officers they claim are insensitive to racial tensions.

The police architects of the initiative rule out such direct involvement. But they admit that, to end years of hostility, residents could have a say in recruitment and selection policy. They could also advise the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on making the most senior appointments at police stations in sensitive areas.

Chief Inspector Alan O'Gorman, community liaison officer for the London borough of Lambeth, which includes

Brixton, said: "We have to get greater participation from the community so we have to start with a blank piece of paper and consider what was once the unthinkable. The idea is not to let residents say who can and can't police their streets, but rather profile the sort of candidates we should be recruiting."

Denis O'Connor, Assistant Commissioner for Southwest London, said: "We want the community to support and join us. It could be them suggesting the sort of recruits we should be looking for, the qualities that our officers should have."

Mr O'Connor described as "problematic" the idea of allowing residents to select individual officers to police them. "An officer who might suit one person could upset their neighbour."

Superintendent Mike O'Brien, who is in operational charge at Brixton police station, said: "In broad terms I am not against the concept of external assistance in selecting

the best police officers. We would have something to learn."

Lloyd Leon, deputy chairman of the Lambeth Community Police Consultative Group, said: "We want to recruit officers whom we can respect and have confidence in. Some who are sent to Brixton have no idea what they are in for."

However, Nicholas Long, the chairman of the committee, which was set up to give the community a say in policing after the 1981 Brixton riots, said: "I don't think in my lifetime you will see civilians having a say on police selection boards."

Nineteen soldiers face sack for drugs

Nineteen soldiers could face dismissal from The Royal Anglian Regiment after testing positive for drugs. A random test by military police on 700 of the regiment's soldiers on June 2 showed that the men had been taking Ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD and cannabis.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "We take an extremely serious view about drugs. The individual cases of these men will be examined carefully and some may be sacked."

Nine men were kicked out of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in March after a narcotics test.

Hostage quest

Julie Mangan, wife of Keith Mangan, the Briton who was taken hostage in Kashmir two years ago, will visit the state this week with the wife of one of three other Western hostages to seek information about her husband.

Nurse evidence

Lawyers in Saudi Arabia will offer evidence today that the family of an Australian nurse are eligible to demand the death penalty if the British nurses Deborah Parry and Lucille McLaughlin are convicted of her murder.

Fatal rail fall

A man aged 23 died after falling on to a live rail while taking a short cut along a railway line at Lymington, Hampshire, police said. He and another man had been heading for Lymington Pier from the station.

Racism helpline

The TUC is launching a telephone service to help victims of racial harassment at work. A spokesman said that the service was in response to the fact that half of Britain's largest companies had no mechanism for dealing with racism.

Match winner

Gareth Southgate, the Aston Villa footballer who missed a penalty for England in their Euro 96 semi-final against Germany, married Alison Bird at the Church of St Nicholas in Worth, West Sussex.

Pit bull bites PC

PC Robin Linton suffered serious arm wounds after being bitten by a pit bull terrier at a house in Springfield, Dumfries and Galloway. The dog's owner was arrested and the animal taken to police kennels.

Roadside death

A woman died after being hit by a Land Rover as she pushed her broken-down car along the A3 at Liphook, Hampshire. The woman, in her 30s, was certified dead at the scene. The driver of the other vehicle was unhurt.

'Burglars round here now feel undressed if they are not armed'

WHEN Anthony Baker, 41, saw a friend being robbed this month in a takeaway restaurant, he tried to stop the raiders with a saucepan lid. He was shot dead at close range.

Outside a pub in the same street a few weeks previously, Devon Dawson, 29, was shot dead with a sub-machinegun after an argument. Last weekend a 14-year-old boy was shot in the chest as he went to answer his front door.

Nobody has been arrested yet for these latest shootings in Brixton. The south London community is in the grip of gun law. In a food shop in Railton Road, four shop owners admitted this week that they had all been threatened with guns in recent months and none of them had reported the incidents to police.

None wanted to be named as they said they were afraid of armed reprisals. One said: "Burglars feel undressed without a gun around here. Anyone who wants to be a big man carries a weapon and they are not hard to buy. Where they used to carry a knife or hit you, nowadays a mugger is likely to shoot you."

In a Brixton pub, an after-

noon drinker overhearing a conversation about the number of weapons that have appeared in the area offers to obtain "a handgun in two hours for £200. An automatic will cost you £900."

A group of youngsters on their lunch break from school imitate a shootout with sound effects as they pass the police station. The children, aged 11 to 14, boast that they know the identities of some of the local gunmen. This may be doubtful, but it is a reflection that they are aware that firearms are playing an increasing role in the estates where they play.

Police sources say that the number of local firearms incidents has risen alarmingly in the past two months. On average they deal with about 20. The most recent figures have more than doubled. Police say that one gang of armed raiders is thought to be responsible for more than 20 incidents.

Lloyd Leon, vice-chairman

of the Community Police Consultative Group for Lambeth, said: "The number of firearms incidents is far higher than the police realise, because most go unreported."

Mr Leon told how a masked gunman burst into his pub and fired into the ceiling while he was standing off away. In March a gunman pounced on a woman as she sat in a minicab in Coldharbour Lane, produced a silver handgun, put it against her head and pulled the trigger twice. On both occasions, the gun jammed and the gunman fled.

In the same month two men were shot and wounded in separate incidents. Last month a delivery driver was held up at gunpoint and robbed of 120 crates of drink. Five days later a mugger pulled a gun on a passer-by who tried to intervene in a robbery.

Mr Leon said: "There was a time that the only criminals



Nicholas Long in the centre of Brixton. He doubts that civilians will have a say on selection boards

who carried guns were drugs dealers, but everyone has them now. Those who carry guns have to be made to feel unwelcome in their communities, no matter what their colour."

"The mother and grandmother of the 14-year-old who was shot attended a meeting this week to do something about the gunmen and were distraught to hear local people arguing about lack of

faith in the police. This is not a race issue. The gunmen threaten us all."

Dariusz Howe, a barrister and black community leader, admitted in a recent article in the *New Statesman* that he is considering moving for the sake of his family's safety, after 25 years of living in Brixton.

He said: "It's coming too close for the comfort of my family. The threat of the stray bullet haunts all."

He was killed while trying to stop two thieves stealing jewellery from the son of the proprietor of the Control Tower restaurant in Coldharbour Lane on June 3.

Police in Brixton have seized 15 guns this year, including sawn-off shotguns, a semi-automatic Luger and a array of handguns. Detectives concede that proposed legislation to ban the ownership of handguns will do nothing to persuade the gunmen of south London to hand over their weapons, even if they were to offer an amnesty from

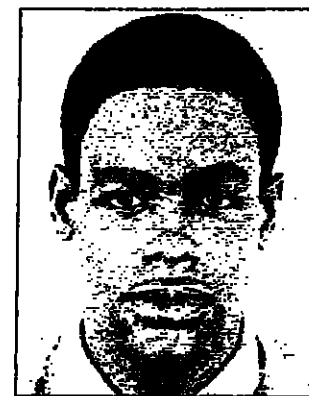
prosecution. Extra detectives have been drafted into the area to help to solve the recent shootings.

Police scorn the idea that the upsurge in shootings has anything to do with the Yardies, Jamaican gangsters who are pivotal figures in the drugs trade. One said: "These are just local hoodlums who like to style themselves with the fancy name for some street cred."

Superintendent Mike O'Brien, who is in operational charge at Brixton, said: "The use of guns is a worrying trend that we are devoting all

our efforts to stop. In some parts of this community, there is an acceptance that there is some sort of gun law, but the overwhelming majority of residents are behind our efforts to rid this community of this cancer."

The police have launched a poster campaign in the area asking local residents to use a confidential telephone service to reveal anyone they know who has a gun. One officer said: "We promise them absolute anonymity. They need not be scared the gunmen will ever know the informant's identity."



Victims: Devon Dawson, left, shot outside a pub, and Anthony Baker, who was rescuing a friend



Wren lodges shore leave harassment challenge

By FRANCIS GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WREN who was winched off a Royal Navy ship by helicopter after 15 months of alleged harassment is bringing a test action today which could make the service liable for the actions of servicemen off-duty and on shore leave.

In a case backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, the 27-year old woman will claim at an industrial tribunal at Croydon, south London, that she needed psychiatric treatment because of her treatment between January 1994 and May 1995. Alan Lakin, a legal adviser to the commission, said: "This case is the first time that a woman has not only complained of harassment on board ship, but also when on shore leave."

The woman does not wish to be named. The commission will argue that, if the Navy knew of what was happening, or that it was likely to happen, it should have taken reasonable steps to prevent it. The Royal Navy denies the allegations, and argues that incidents on shore were not part of the woman's employment.

The action was being brought under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and would extend an employers' liability. Mr Lakin said.

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25 JUN 1997

Lavatory wall tiles and Red Cross jelly played their part in preparing for liberation

PoW tells of escape maps printed on secret press

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH veteran held prisoner of war by the Germans has described how he helped to set up a secret printing press to produce 3,000 maps for all the inmates to make a mass breakout as the Nazis faced defeat.

Royal Engineer Captain Wallis Heath, MC, now 80, was held in a camp in northern Germany in 1944. He has come forward to tell his story after *The Times* disclosed how the games maker Waddingtons liaised with the War Office to supply silk maps of Germany, concealed in Monopoly sets, to PoW camps.

Mr Heath never knew who had supplied the one silk map of Germany sent to his PoW camp in Brunswick, but it led to an extraordinary secret mission that involved three men who had been in the printing business.

Mr Heath had been captured by the Germans in Tunisia in 1942. He was serving with the 237th (Highland) Field Company Royal Engineers, and in 1942 was attached to the 78th Division. In November 1942 he drove into a German ambush while on a reconnaissance mission to check out a bridge near Tunis. The camp at which he ended up was next to an airfield that was constantly bombed by the Americans.

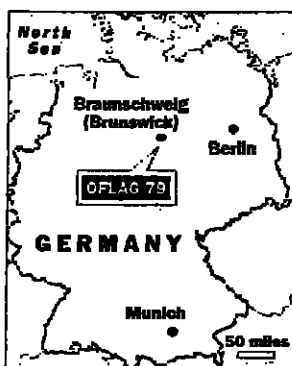
The idea of mass-producing maps of the area came at a moment of crisis in the camp in 1944. There had been an attempt on Hitler's life and the SS and Gestapo began to tighten their grip. The day after the assassination attempt on Hitler an SS general visited the camp, causing fear among the prisoners.

Mr Heath, of St Andrews, Fife, said: "People began to realise that the final scenes of liberation might not quite follow the stage directions, and if these forces of unrestrained evil were let loose throughout Germany, all of us might find ourselves in conditions of complete anarchy."

It was decided that arrangements should be made to get all the prisoners out of the camp as soon as the war was over, each armed with a map to make his way across Germany. Mr Heath said: "Maps were constantly being



Captain Heath in 1944, and the area of the map



copied laboriously by hand for individual escape efforts, but this was a camp of some 3,000 souls."

The escape committee came up with the idea of forming a prisoners' press and word went round for PoWs with printing experience to come forward. Mr Heath, with Pip Evans and Ken Whitworth, formed what became known as the Brunswick Printers.

Mr Heath said: "We found that if we took some large unglazed tiles off the walls of the passages and lavatories and ground them together, face to face, with Vim, we could get a smooth, clean receptive surface from which to make a printing plate."

They then took a tracing from the Waddingtons silk map and, using a piece of carbon, transferred it on to the tile. Separate tracings were made of the different colours

on the map, such as black for placenames and railways, red for roads and blue for rivers.

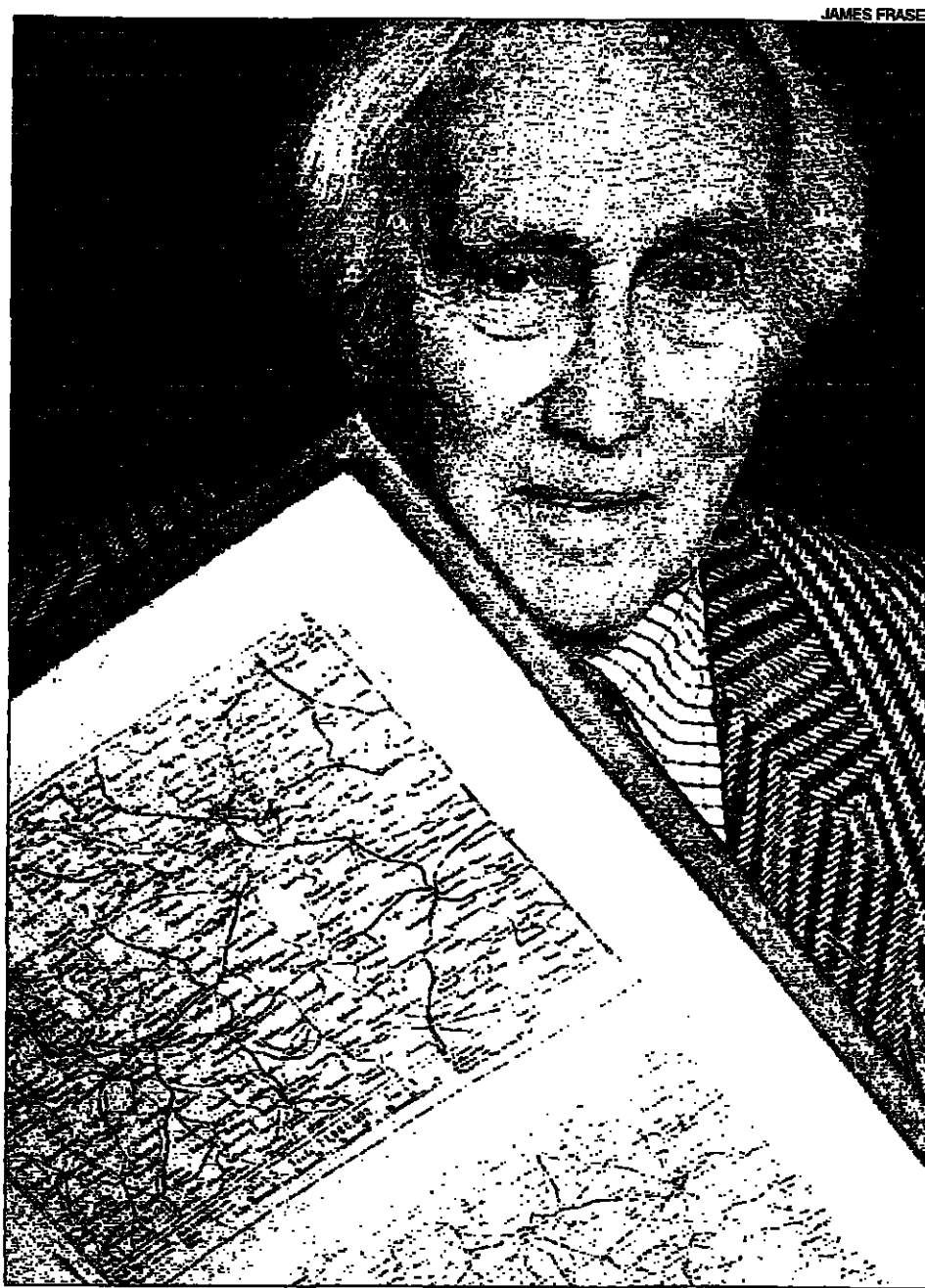
Mr Heath and his fellow printers improved the quality of the tracing by going over the details with a fine mapping pen dipped in boiled margarine. Each tile was then coated with gelatine from jellies sent in Red Cross food parcels to render its surface insensitive to any further grease or oil.

Mr Heath said: "We then had a printing plate which we could damp with a sponge and ink by rolling it over with a greasy-based ink which we'd got from the Red Cross. The map design on the plate repelled any moisture from the sponge because it had been drawn with our margarine."

For an hour and a half a day over several weeks, the Brunswick printers applied the map impression on the makeshift printing plates on to paper, until there were 3,000 imprints covering the areas of Bremen, Hamburg and Braunschweig.

The maps were ready for the day of liberation, but they were never needed. Despite their earlier fears, they were liberated by an American cavalry unit and told to stay in the camp for a further 11 days because there was "mayhem" in the country.

Mr Heath kept a few copies of the maps, which he believes may be the only ones to have survived.



Wallis Heath with a map that he helped to make on makeshift printing plates

Blind call for ban on footpath cyclists

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BLIND people are demanding new legislation to stop cyclists using footpaths and to prevent drivers from parking on pavements.

Delegates to the National Federation of the Blind's conference in Solihull, in the West Midlands, agreed yesterday that the car on the kerb and the bicycle on the path constituted a menace that prevented them going out. They were especially worried that the plan by the charity Sustrans to create a national cyclepath network would make many walks no-go areas for blind and partially sighted people unless separate cycle tracks were built.

Although blind people recognised the environmental benefits of persuading motorists to leave their cars at home, they were worried at the number of paths they had to share with cyclists, said Jill Allcock, the federation's spokeswoman. "Some of our members who have been hit by cycles simply won't go out any more because they are so scared. Since bicycle bells were not compulsory, 'you can't hear bikes coming, and guide dogs don't know what to do, because they don't expect bikes on the pavement'."

"We are calling for a total ban on parking on pavements. So many blind and partially sighted people are prevented from walking safely, both because of cars blocking their way and because of broken and cracked paving slabs."

Ministers to act over jail hate campaigns

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Government yesterday promised action to prevent prisoners harassing their victims from behind bars. More than 100 women are claimed to have been terrorised by telephone and letter by those jailed for abusing them.

Home Office ministers, including Joyce Quin, the Prisons Minister, are due to meet police and probation officers next month to discuss the extent of the problem and how to tackle it. A Home Office spokeswoman said that random monitoring of telephone calls made by prisoners had already begun. Prison officers also have the power to screen mail if they believe that an inmate is conducting a hate campaign.

Harry Fletcher, spokesman for the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "Prison officers have reported dozens if not hundreds of individuals over the last two years who harass and terrorise their victims. But what is particularly sinister is that, once they get found out, they pass on details to fellow inmates who continue to harass the victims."

A Prison Service spokesman said that he did not accept the figures. "But if someone is being harassed we need to know about it."

There had been cases where telephone and letter writing privileges had been withdrawn. In serious cases police could be called in but the spokesman said that he was not aware of any prosecutions.

Curtains for redcoats at two Butlin's camps

By MARK HENDERSON

THE Butlin's redcoats are to make their last appearance at two holiday camps, as the owners attempt to change their image.

Redcoats will bow out at Butlin's in Pwllheli, North Wales, and Ayr as the Rank Group moves to open modern holiday centres in place of the traditional camps. The holiday centres will offer a higher standard of accommodation and a range of sporting and leisure activities. Although Redcoats will continue to work at Butlin's resorts in Minehead, Bognor Regis and Skegness for the moment, the company is considering doing away with them altogether.

Butlin's, which celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year, was founded by Billy Butlin to offer cheap seaside holidays for working-class families. The redcoats were supposed to make sure campers stayed cheerful whatever the weather.

Butlin's has been performing poorly against rival camps which offer better facilities, and cheap package holidays abroad. The Rank Group is concerned about the downmarket image of the camps, which has been reinforced by film and television parodies portraying bossy staff, spartan conditions and poor food.

Andrew Teare, Rank Group's chief executive, said the Butlin's brand was strong, but needed to be improved. "We are turning it upside down and inside out," he said.

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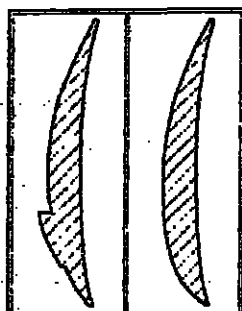
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Section through a varifocal lens showing the prescription blended subtly without division.

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Dramatic transformation to a great ministry

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

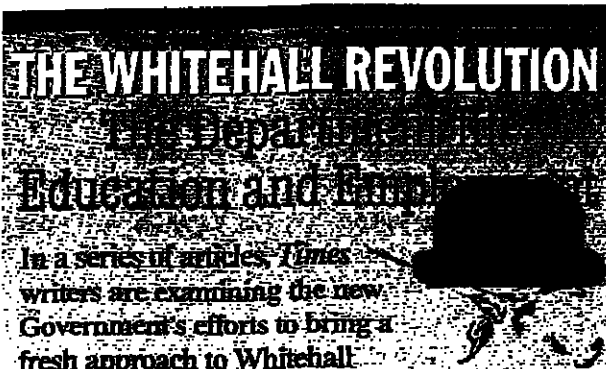
NEXT month's Schools White Paper, to be published in record time, will set the seal on the most dramatic transformation of any department in Whitehall.

Tony Blair's pre-election pledge to make Education and Employment one of the great departments of state seemed to have been forgotten when only one Cabinet minister was appointed, rather than the promised two. But the pace of change since May 2 has left civil servants gasping.

Only seven weeks after the election, the first legislation — abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme — is through the Commons. European Union negotiations on employment have begun to make progress, and the White Paper is in its final stage of drafting. In between, it has managed to produce more policy announcements and initiatives than any other department.

The department has been gearing up to accommodate David Blunkett, as the first blind Secretary of State, for several months. But the switch to shorter, taped submissions and more delegation has accelerated a change of culture in the department.

Mr Blunkett set the tone in his first week in office, hiring Westminster Central Hall to address all 2,000 London-based civil servants, along with his full ministerial team. At the department's outposts in the north of England he has



repeated his appeal for officials to set aside any "natural cynicism" to help to restore confidence in public services.

Under the "partnership" proposed by Mr Blunkett, civil servants are expected to take on a more public role. Last week, for example, Michael Bichard, the Permanent Secretary, urged the Association of Teachers and Lecturers to stop attacking Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools. In previous eras such a speech would have been the preserve of politicians.

Even the structure of the department is unconventional. Michael Barber, seconded from London University's Institute of Education, is heading a standards and effectiveness unit — a role that

would normally go to a civil servant. The unit is intended to be the engine for school improvement, producing policy proposals and helping to identify best practice.

Ministerial boundaries have changed as well. Two of the team will straddle education and employment, concentrating on one of Mr Blunkett's strong interests: lifelong learning. Breaking down barriers between academic and vocational education, and persuading adults to continue learning at work will be among the administration's objectives.

But there are urgent issues to address. The first public spending round will be testing, with the Conservative plans adopted by Labour before the election certain to

result in cuts to school budgets and teacher redundancies if no extra money can be found. Mr Blunkett is said to have been pressing the Treasury for more resources, but the only manifesto commitment was to increase investment in education during the next five years.

Equally unpopular with middle-class voters, but probably unavoidable, will be the abandonment of free tuition, as well as maintenance grants, for university students. Sir Ron Dearing's report on higher education will be published soon, making for a hectic period of policymaking before the Commons' summer recess.

Even then there will be no let-up. Mr Blunkett has promised: he is determined to have full consultation on the White Paper. In new Labour style, the opinions of teachers, governors and parents on the proposals are being sought in focus groups. Once the plans are published, there will be more innovations, such as consultation with the public via computer, regional conferences, and expert witnesses at the Commons committee stage.

The Education Bill was cited in the Queen's Speech as the Government's top priority for this session. With responsibility for the welfare-to-work programme and detailed negotiations on the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty also on his shoulders, Mr Blunkett has an unenviable workload. Stephen Byers, the standards minister, remarked: "I think people in education appreciate that we are all in this together."

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT TEAM



DAVID BLUNKETT: Secretary of State

The 50-year-old former leader of Sheffield City Council is still enjoying a honeymoon period with teachers and parents, although some colleagues resent his conversion to Blairite policies. Formidable performer in the Commons, he uses his own background to advantage to raise expectations in schools. Blind since birth, he lost his father in an industrial accident, went to a boarding school he hated and spent six years at night school getting the A levels he needed for university. Taught in a further education college before going into politics.

SCHOOLS

STEPHEN BYERS: Schools

Former leader of North Tyneside Council is considered a rising star, despite appearing to overstep the mark by telling journalists over dinner of Labour plans to sever trade union links. A whip in opposition, he now has high-profile role on school standards. Aged 44, has a polytechnic degree and lectured in law before becoming an MP in 1994.



ESTELLE MORRIS

Another former teacher, aged 45, with ten years' experience at a Coventry comprehensive, has impressed civil servants with fresh ideas. Father and uncle both Labour MPs, she won Birmingham Yardley by 162 votes but now has majority of 5,000. Also a whip in Opposition, previously led Labour group on Warwick District Council.

POST SCHOOL EDUCATION



BARONESS BLACKSTONE

Left the Labour Party in the late 1960s over immigration, but served in the Downing Street policy unit in the Callaghan era. After a stint with the Inner London Education Authority and ten years heading Birkbeck College, London, her brief combines higher education and employment. Aged 54, a heavy workload includes piloting legislation through the Lords.

KIM HOWLES

Best known for taking on Arthur Scargill in the miners union, the 50-year-old son of a Communist lorry driver was a leader of student protests in 1968. Then an art student, a varied career has included a PhD at Warwick University. Joined Labour only in 1981, but is now charged with making lifelong learning a reality.

EMPLOYMENT

ANDREW SMITH

Missed out on a Cabinet post after shadowing the Transport Secretary in Opposition. His consolation, as the senior minister responsible for employment, has been a leading role in the Welfare to Work programme. Now 46, he has been a student, then full-time councillor and, for the last ten years, MP in Oxford.

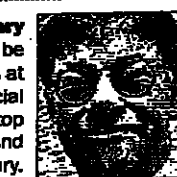


ALAN HOWARTH

The Junior Employment Minister is back in the office he had as Higher Education Minister for the Tories. Then in the hard-line No Turning Back group, his conversion to new Labour was a pre-election sensation. Aged 53, the Cambridge graduate taught briefly before working at Conservative Central Office.

MICHAEL RICHARD: Permanent Secretary

The first recent Permanent Secretary to be appointed from outside Whitehall, after spells at Gloucestershire County Council and the Social Security Benefits Agency. Now 50, he won the top job when Education and Employment merged, and is talked of as a future Cabinet Secretary.



CONOR RYAN

Special adviser. The 33-year-old Dubliner was Mr Blunkett's right-hand man in Opposition, spending almost four years as his researcher on health and later education. Was a press officer for the Inner London Education Authority.

MILARY BENNE

Special adviser. Former head of communications and policy at the white-collar union MSF but now new Labour. Tony Benn's son is a strategic thinker. He used to be deputy leader of Ealing Councils education committee.

The In-Tray: Education

Awkward issues to be faced in next month's White Paper include the abolition of grant-maintained status and the fate of the remaining grammar schools. Also developing a "more positive" inspection system and finding a new role for local education authorities.

The Dearing Report, due later in July, requires long-term decisions on the university system, but the question of student fees is a genuine political hot potato. Labour said in

opposition that students would have to pay their own maintenance costs, but opposed tuition fees. A rethink is in progress.

What to do with 18 failing schools given until September to improve. Action to follow on unsatisfactory local authorities.

Speeding up the dismissal of incompetent teachers. Discussions are under way with local authorities.

Reducing class sizes to 30 in the first years of primary school without consigning children to schools their parents do not want. Transferring money from the abolition of assisted places will not pay for extra classrooms.

Tackling the 3 billion backlog of school repairs and maintenance. A public-private partnership scheme is promised next month.

Meeting highly ambitious targets for primary schools, with the proportion of 11-year-olds reaching the expected standard in English up from 57 per cent to 80 per cent within five years. All schools will have improvement targets soon.

Restoring morale in the teaching profession and attracting high-calibre entrants before serious shortages appear. Talks are promised on the establishment of a General Teaching Council.

Carrying out a promise to provide nursery education for all four-year-olds, having scrapped nursery vouchers. A new system must encompass state and private provision, and link day care with nurseries.

Creating a broader short-term curriculum, having postponed planned changes to A and AS levels. Improved vocational qualifications to be brought into single qualifications framework.

Forging an unlikely partnership between Chris Woodhead (Chief Inspector of Schools and darling of the Right) and Tim Brighouse (Chief Education Officer of Birmingham and teacher's hero) to make a success of Mr Blunkett's school improvement taskforce.

The In-Tray: Employment

Welfare to work. Central role for DfEE in setting up through Employment Service and bodies such as the Prince of Wales's Prince's Trust the operation of the key welfare-to-work schemes. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will announce in the Budget. The New Deal jobs programme will aim to get 250,000 young people, and an unspecified

number of the long-term unemployed, off benefit and into work by means of job subsidies for employers.

Unemployment. DfEE has ordered a review of the official unemployment figures. In opposition Labour and the Tories had been charged with over 20 times by the Tories. Ministers will now have to decide whether to resist them at a more realistic and higher level.

Training. DfEE will be looking in the longer term at the future of the business-led Training and Enterprise Councils, to

decide if they really have helped industrial training in Britain or whether they are just an expensive piece of unnecessary bureaucracy.

EU social policy. Robin Cook's Foreign Office will negotiate UK signing the social chapter. Margaret Thatcher's DTI will implement key EU directives such as working time. But it will be David Blunkett's DfEE that will take Britain's place at EU social affairs council, looking soon at contentious issues such as national level works councils and multinational plant closures.

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Bootleg cigarettes fear as US tries to curb nicotine

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

FEARS that America might become a country of bootleg cigarettes emerged yesterday as the smoke cleared over an unprecedented deal to regulate tobacco.

The agreement would give the Food and Drug Administration authority to reduce nicotine levels in cigarettes in 12 years. But on studying the fine print of the 70-page document, critics discovered that the FDA would need to meet challenging criteria.

It would have to prove that diluting nicotine would lead to tangible health improvements. Even more difficult, the agency must show that the change would not lead to a huge black market of full-strength, high-nicotine cigarettes being smuggled into the United States.

That would seem an impossible pledge to give in a country of vast borders that failed to halt the flow of illicit alcohol during Prohibition and is today awash with illegal drugs.

The attempt to impose stringent limits on the FDA aroused the ire of two powerful opponents of the tobacco industry, David Kessler, former head of the FDA, and C. Everett Koop, former US Surgeon-General.

Their reactions could spell trouble for the pact. They are co-chairmen of a panel of health experts who will advise Congress, which must ap-

prove the settlement before it takes effect, and President Clinton, who must sign it.

At issue is the agreement tobacco companies reached last Friday with the attorneys-general of 40 states to curtail cigarette marketing, particularly to teenagers, and to pay compensation and other health costs totalling \$368 billion (£230 billion) over 25 years, in exchange for a curb in lawsuits.

Dr Kessler, while welcoming much in the agreement, said that shackling the FDA's authority to control nicotine levels would reverse a hard-won court victory last April giving the agency authority to treat cigarettes as a drug. He said any watering down of that jurisdiction would be a retreat. Mr Koop called it a "very serious flaw" in the agreement.

The tobacco industry's concerns over reducing nicotine are well-founded. Ten years ago, Philip Morris, makers of Marlboro, test-marketed a nicotine-free cigarette called DeNic. Smokers complained that it had no more kick than puffing on tea leaves.

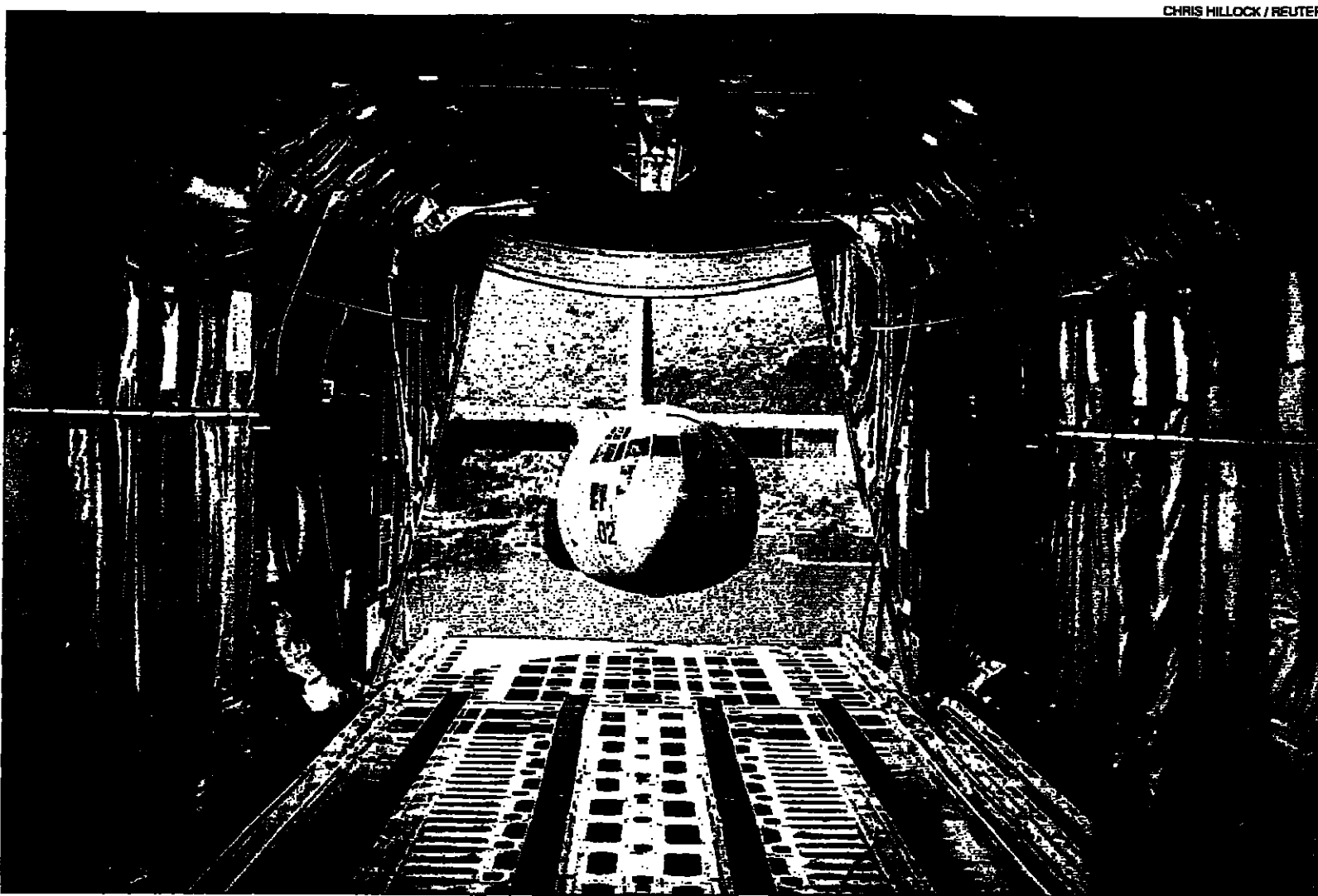
Another problem with reducing nicotine, according to advocates both for and against tobacco, is that teenagers will go in search of full-strength brands just to show their defiance.

The big tobacco companies' offer of \$368 billion was at-

tacked by Mr Koop as "paltry". He said: "They can make up anything they give away by raising the price of cigarettes." He said that the still-powerful tobacco lobby would seek to weaken the agreement when it came before Congress.

Certainly, a battle on Capitol Hill seems inevitable, pitting members from tobacco-growing states against such enemies as Senator Edward Kennedy. He has already damned the agreement, citing the tobacco industry's "record of deceit, manipulation and bad faith". Others in Congress said the pact was only a "starting point".

The President, in a classic piece of fence-sitting, claimed credit for bringing the two sides together but said the agreement must now be carefully considered. When in doubt, Mr Clinton awaits the outcome of opinion polls. They could show the deal has broad popular appeal.



A Royal New Zealand Air Force C130 Hercules tailgates a sister plane over Queenstown in a demonstration of precision flying by the Auckland 40 Squadron. The aircraft were never closer than 50 yards and there was no danger of collision, organisers of the exercise said

Cambodia general sees ailing Pol Pot

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

POL POT, one of the most brutal dictators of the 20th century, was seen by a top Cambodian general yesterday. It was the first time in 17 years that anyone from the outside had seen the man responsible for the genocide of more than a million Cambodians.

General Nhiek Bun Chhay, a senior defence official, said last night after returning to the capital from a visit to the Khmer Rouge jungle headquarters at Anlong Veng in northeast Cambodia: "I met Pol Pot this morning."

He said he was told by a breakaway Khmer Rouge faction holding the leader that Pol Pot would be handed over to the Government "very soon". Observers said this could pave the way for one of the trials of the century, ranking alongside those of Nazi leaders at Nuremberg.

But General Nhiek Bun Chhay said Pol Pot was "in poor health". The general said he saw him sitting inside a house where he was being detained.

It is the first time that Pol Pot, 69, has been seen by outsiders since being filmed in 1980 by a Japanese television



Nhiek Bun Chhay: his sighting was questioned

reporter. Yesterday, the general said he had not taken a photograph of Pol Pot. Sceptics, however, remained unconvinced since General Nhiek Bun Chhay's report comes amid recent conflicting reports that Pol Pot had died. They noted that he had been wrong in the past in claiming that Christopher Howes, the British mine-clearance expert, had escaped from his Khmer Rouge captors. Others, however, said it was unlikely that the general, a confidant of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Cambodia's First Co-Prime Minister, could be so wrong this time.

Quebec bars English from business cards

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

QUEBEC'S "language police" have moved to outlaw the use of English language business cards in the francophone Canadian province.

The Office de la Langue Française (OLF) has announced that Article 52 of the French Language Charter, which states that "catalogues, brochures, flyers, commercial directories and all other publications of a similar nature must be written in French", also applies to business cards.

Henceforth, a hypothetical "John Smith, Attorney" must style himself "John Smith, Avocat", or face hefty fines. The matter came to a head last week with the prosecution for "language violations" of Dave Amsel, the owner of a video game store in St Laurent. Mr Amsel's offence was to give his address on his

business cards as "Decarie Boulevard" — deemed to be English — and not as "Boulevard Decarie", which would be the correct French word-order.

The OLF has also announced that it will patrol the Internet to ensure that no businesses based in Quebec advertise in English.

Louise Beaudoin, the province's Language Minister, said the office had "full authority" to ensure that web sites complied with Quebec's language laws.

Last week, Morty Grauer, the owner of a computer store, received an ultimatum from the OLF ordering him to cease the use of English on his "home page". Lawyers said yesterday that it was unlikely that the OLF had jurisdiction to patrol the Internet.

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World leaders vow to defend Hong Kong rights

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER
IN DENVER

CHINA

BRITAIN secured yesterday a firm commitment from world leaders to keep China to its past promises to uphold democracy and the rule of law in Hong Kong.

In a surprisingly strong declaration backed by President Yeltsin, the Summit of the Eight gathering here demanded democratic elections in Hong Kong for a new legislature as soon as possible. It

added that it "welcomed" and placed weight on China's commitments in the 1984 Joint Declaration to ensure Hong Kong's continued stability and prosperity, preserving its way of life, its fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

The summit communiqué said: "These will provide the essential underpinning for Hong Kong's future economic success." It also

demanding that China live up to its promises to observe fundamental human and political rights. Tony Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who made the declaration one of their priorities at the summit, were pleased to have won such firm strictures.

Mr Cook said yesterday: "This is the last weekend before the transfer of sovereignty in Hong Kong. Britain is making it perfectly clear that our connection with Hong Kong does not end on June 30. We have

got very good, tough language in the final communiqué. China must fulfil the commitments it has entered into to permit the continuing prosperity and freedoms for the people of Hong Kong. The American Government has been first class on this and given us every support we could have hoped for."

Mr Cook, however, refused to talk about the consequences if China did not abide by the bargain. Asked whether there would be

sanctions, he said it would not help to secure the co-operation needed from China to engage in the business of threats of what would happen if things went wrong. "We do not want to talk about sanctions if it goes wrong. We want to stop it from going wrong."

He added that Britain would be monitoring closely what happened after June 30, confirming that the Government would report to Parliament every six months on the state of human rights, civil liberties

and democracy in Hong Kong. In an interview with ABC yesterday, Mr Blair said that China was now aware that if it did not keep to the terms of the Joint Declaration it faced the condemnation of world opinion.

He said if the Chinese failed to keep to international obligations Britain would have to look at ways of mobilising international opinion to ensure that they did. "But let us wait and see if that actually happens or not."

Britain, he said, had a moral responsibility to Hong Kong and "the best way to discharge it is to keep China to the Joint Declaration and make sure we build international support to do that".

It was also important to ensure that Britain had a stable and good relationship with China. "Because, in the end that is the best prospect for people in Hong Kong of a safe and stable future."

Leading article, page 21

'G8' warns Iran over terrorism and pledges Africa aid reforms

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN DENVER

COMMUNIQUE

BRITISH officials expressed deep satisfaction with the summit's final communiqué, which warned China that the world would be watching Hong Kong, called on Iran to stop supporting terrorism, launched a new initiative to help Africa, and moved towards a global agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines.

Covering most of the world's trouble spots and written in language more forthright than usual, the communiqué detailed the progress made since the last summit at Lyons on the traditional issues of crime, drugs, terrorism and United Nations reform, while introducing new issues of importance to certain countries.

President Clinton's new foreign policy activism was reflected in a call for reform in Africa: Japan's concern about its ageing population yielded a promise for detailed studies of pensions, healthcare schemes and life-long learning.

On regional issues, the summit was outspoken in calling on China to respect commitments made in the 1984 Joint Declaration with Britain on Hong Kong. Leaders "placed weight" on the commitments, noting that they gave Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy and guaranteed fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, essential for Hong Kong's economic success.

Mr Blair has been explaining his reasons for not attend-

ing the swearing-in of the provisional Legislative Council after the handover, hoping that others might follow suit. But British officials insisted there had been no direct lobbying, nor was the Government expecting a uniform Western line.

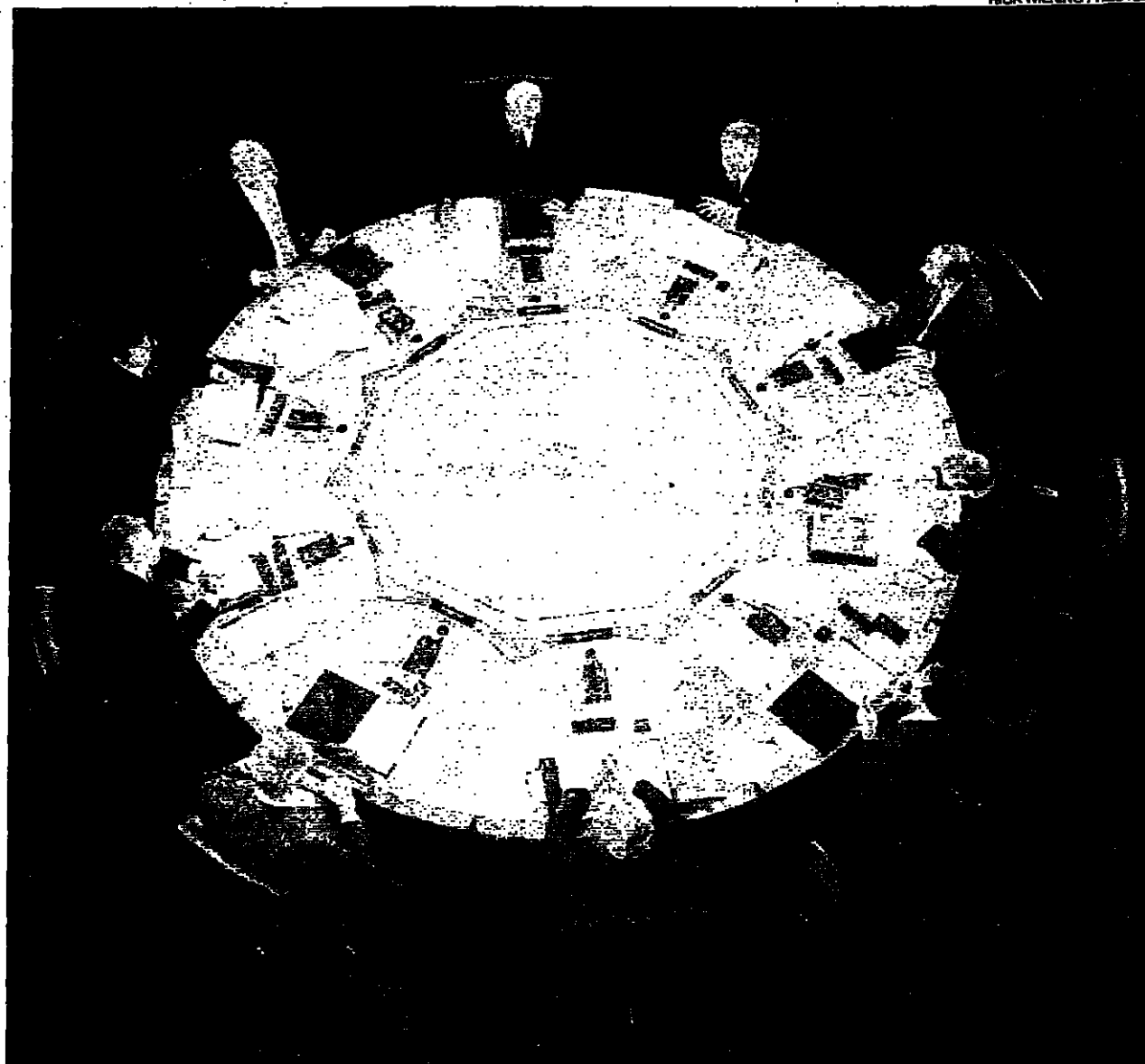
However, the communiqué pointedly said that the leaders — including President Yeltsin — "look forward to democratic elections in Hong Kong for a new legislature as soon as possible".

On the Democratic Republic of Congo — formerly Zaire — they spoke of the need for an elected government, respect for human rights, and the urgency with which Laurent Kabila, the new President, must address humanitarian needs. They warned him that the "G8" governments' willingness to help to rebuild the country would depend on his commitment to reform, sound economic policies, public accountability and respect for human rights, including those of the refugees.

They also spoke of their deep concern over the situation in neighbouring Congo (Brazzaville).

On African reform, the Eight said they wanted to help countries to integrate into the world economy. They noted, approvingly, democratic progress: since 1990, more than 20 countries had held fair elections. Several had improved the rule of law, avoided excessive military spending, and strengthened civil society. "We will support African efforts to promote democracy and good governance, improve the integrity of public institutions, enhance the transparency of government spending and develop national anti-bribery regulations."

But, taking the cue from Mr



Leaders of the "G8" at the Denver summit. The two extra places are taken by the EU and EC Presidents

Clinton, their message to African leaders was that trade, rather than aid, should be the route to growth and prosperity.

They promised to deepen the dialogue with Africa, promote a deployable African peacekeeping capacity and encourage UN development work in the continent.

The focus also fell on the Middle East. The leaders said the peace process faced a crisis and they were determined to re-inject momentum into it. There had to be "serious and

credible" negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

On Iran, the communiqué masked a long tussle between America and the European Union, which is resisting the D'Amato Act mandating sanctions against companies investing in the country's energy sector.

The EU produced a list of tough measures it had enforced against Iran, with officials arguing that they were enough to justify a blanket waiver from the Act.

But they also voiced suspicion that America's real concern was to prevent EU companies from taking advantage of the US sanctions, so that US oil companies could benefit when normal "relations" were re-established.

The communiqué "noted with interest" the recent election in Iran of a new president, but called on Tehran to desist from supporting extremist groups trying to wreck the Middle East peace process. It urged respect for the human rights of Iranian citizens; the

renunciation of terrorism and an ending of support for the threat to the life of Salman Rushdie.

The Eight also called on Burma to stop harassing Aung San Suu Kyi, urged all factions in Afghanistan to stop fighting and form a broad-based government, supported efforts to restore order in Albania and create a sound financial system, and appealed to Cambodian leaders to hold free and fair elections.

They also promised to pool their efforts to fight AIDS.

Eight tell Bosnian chieftains to end stalemate

BY MICHAEL BINYON

REFLECTING increasing frustration at the stalemate in Bosnia and anger with the obdurate leadership of the three ethnic groups, the Eight warned the Muslims, Croats and Serbs that unless they did more to carry out their Dayton commitments, they would be penalised.

A summit statement said that there must be justice in Bosnia if peace was to endure. Indicted war criminals must be surrendered to the international tribunal for trial, and all parties in the region, including Serbia and Croatia, were obliged to co-operate. Unless they did so, the summit leaders said, they would be denied international assistance as well as integration in regional institutions.

Bosnia was the main foreign issue discussed at Denver and one which all recognised was likely to worsen. President Clinton is anxious to withdraw American troops on time next year but the Europeans have been warning him that unless peace is properly secured beforehand, that could lead to renewed war. British officials said they did not think the White House had yet closed its mind to appeals for a continued American troop presence if necessary.

BALKANS

Tony Blair underlined yesterday the urgency of making the Dayton agreement work so that there was a prospect of a lasting settlement.

Speaking on American television, he played down suggestions of a rift between Europe and America over the withdrawal of allied troops from Bosnia, saying that it was a joint responsibility of both Europe and America.

Praising President Clinton's "tremendous courage and good leadership", he said the Americans have behaved in a way that was very responsible. But he added that if allied troops withdrew and simply left people to fight again, "it would be a disaster".

Mr Blair emphasised that it was important that those who committed war crimes were brought to justice. To suggestions that snatch squads should go in and seize those indicted, he said there were questions of feasibility. "And it's important to look at those as well."

The Eight roundly blamed Bosnian officials, from all three groups, for deliberately blocking key aspects of reconstruction and delaying international assistance. "The authorities must uphold fully the right of refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in a peaceful and orderly manner."

Blair forum formula

TONY BLAIR'S first experience of a "G8" summit has convinced him of the need to change it (Philip Webster writes). The Prime Minister, fêted in Denver because of his landslide election victory and his obviously warm relationship with President Clinton, has told summit colleagues the annual world gathering should concentrate on fewer subjects and return to its old informality.

Mr Blair, who will host next year's meeting in Birmingham, has already decided that it should focus mainly on two issues: jobs and organised crime, including efforts to tackle the rise of the Russian mafia. President Yeltsin has told Mr Blair that he welcomes

the proposal. Mr Blair, unafraid of being accused of trying to teach more experienced leaders new tricks, has told them he wants to end the practice of "communiqué-itis", and believes too many things are discussed — so that many are not dealt with properly.

Mr Blair's hopes of a change may be greeted with scepticism. The apparatus surrounding the gatherings is massive, and the vested interest in keeping them as they are great.

Nevertheless, he has promised that he will try at Birmingham to get his summit colleagues away from the limelight so that they can have informal discussions in a relaxed way.

Cautious summiteers almost get into the Wild West spirit

Chuck Berry showed up, but Boris Yeltsin did not. The world's most powerful leaders did not parade in cowboy hats and jeans, even though the White House had solemnly taken down head and waist measurements months ago. Nor did President Clinton leap on stage and play the saxophone along with Kool and the Gang's *Celebration*, as Denver's local television station had excitedly forecast.

But if the Saturday night gala which ended the summit's formal proceedings was more laid back than heralded by the rumours sweeping Denver, it contained enough exuberant American innocence to satisfy even Mr Clinton's taste for sentimentality.

After the 90-minute show, Mr Clinton invited Tony Blair backstage to meet Chuck Berry. One aide described the President as being "all over" the Prime Minister during the weekend, which has clearly breathed even more life into the once-flagging special relationship than did Mr Clinton's recent trip to Britain.

The gala followed three days of heavily themed hospitality. The Denver Public Library, site of the main talks on Saturday, had been newly kitted out in leather chairs and sofas of the "urban ranch" style which is the signature of Denver's moneyed-but-relaxed lifestyle. Despite the \$32,000 (£20,000) which Denver has

spent on chairs for the summit, the leaders were one short. Tony Blair, who gave his to Mr Yeltsin, was then forced to hover awkwardly, "like the loser in a game of musical chairs" according to the local newspaper, until aides rustled up a distinctly smaller chair.

After the Saturday night feast of buffalo, rattlesnake and quail, at a table covered with homely prints of palomino horses, the leaders made their way to the National Western Events Centre, normally home to Denver's cattle shows and rodeos. Mr Clinton had encouraged cowboy-style casual dress, as he emerged on

DENVER NOTEBOOK

the stage in blue cotton shirt and leather bootlace tie. It was clear, like any host of a fancy dress party, that he had picked a theme which posed no strain on his own wardrobe or figure.

Others were less successful, sporting a checked shirt or an Apache-style waistcoat on to their normal diplomatic garb. Japan's Ryutaro Hashimoto, to applause, hitched up a neatly-pressed trouser leg to show off cowboy boots. Mr Blair was the only one to wear jeans, and was probably the only one who could have done so. Cherie Blair, even

more wisely, opted out of the theme with an elegant, scooped-neck black evening gown.

Gospel singers, tap dancers and Eartha Kitt led up to the climax of Chuck Berry playing *Johnny B Goode*, and then to a 300-strong finale. A stocky young woman in a blue Stetson bade the leaders of the industrial world goodnight, saying that of all the instruments on which they could play "the most sensitive is the world itself".

Mr Yeltsin, who proved hugely popular with Denver crowds, which chanted "Boris-iss" whenever he appeared, missed the gala on doctor's orders. They were concerned about his fatigue in the thin oxygen of the "Mile-High City", coming so soon after major heart surgery.

For all the Western friendliness, world leaders may now be relieved to leave the relentless scrutiny of Denver's public and local media, who dubbed the summit "a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see world leaders in the flesh". No action was too small to be recorded: the German Ambassador to Washington was spotted buying a \$140 pair of black brogues, while Mrs Yeltsin was observed paying \$400 for a buffalo leather handbag: the shop owner said she was "very interested in anything to do with buffalo".

BRONWEN MADDOX



Cherie Blair opts for elegance at the gala that wound up the summit

Pact to cut red tape will bolster trade

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN DENVER

ECONOMICS

AN UPBEAT statement, which praised the United States and Britain for turning round their economies dominated the economic communiqué, sounding the note of American triumphalism that has been heard throughout the summit.

A "massive" deal to cut red tape between the United States and the European Union, which would permit high-technology products to be traded across the Atlantic without having to undergo new testing, was one of the most important specific agreements. "This is one of the biggest advances for several years," said Sir Leon Brittan, the EU Commissioner for External Affairs, said as the "mutual recognition agreements" were signed.

Global trade and the progress of developing countries were credited in the final statement by the seven industrial countries for the improvement in the world economy since the previous year's summit in Lyons. Russia, which was excluded from the economic section of the summit, was reassured that it could expect more financial help if it made progress in tackling corruption and encouraging private investment.

Those tributes aside, the joint statement from the finance ministers carried a finger-wagging tone. While

praising the United States and Britain for achieving high growth and low inflation, the statement said that both governments needed to be "vigilant" against a return of inflation, and both needed to curb government spending.

Japan was told to get its house in order urgently, and to seek a recovery based more on domestic demand and less on exports. The United States, which extracted a commitment to deregulation from Japan on the eve of the summit, wants it to open its markets to promote competition.

Germany, France and Italy received a warning that they needed to "reduce barriers to job creation" by overhauling their tax and benefits systems, and to cut government waste. Yves Thibault de Silguy, of the EU delegation, said that while the EU welcomed the strong performance of the American economy, there was "no reason for triumphalism". Europe, with more rigid labour markets, "started from a more difficult position", he said.

Under Japan's prompting, the theme of ageing populations recurred through all economic sessions. M de Silguy noted that in the EU the ratio of working people to retired was one to four, but would reach one to two by 2040.



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UN appeals for action to avert wars over water

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

WARS over the world's dwindling water resources are likely in the next ten years unless urgent action is taken to improve conservation technologies in developing countries, leaders attending the Earth Summit II in New York are being warned.

Up to 800 rivers, including the Amazon, Euphrates and Danube, could increasingly become the focus of international disputes as countries along their lengths pump out more water to irrigate crops, and supply growing industries and rising, thirsty populations.

Felix Dodds, director of the United Nations environment and development committee, suggested yesterday that programmes for water conservation needed to be allied with binding regional agreements between nations to share a river's resources fairly.

"Unless we do this, we may well see wars over water. This could be the beginning of the resource wars that have been predicted," he said.

Regional agreements would try to ensure that irrigation, forestry, housing and other development projects upstream do not damage flows and the quality of water for nations downstream.

The looming crisis will be presented to the 70 leaders, including Tony Blair, who have arrived in America for the UN's special General Assembly, marking the fifth anniversary of the Earth

Summit at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

In its report, *Comprehensive Assessment of Freshwater Resources of the World*, the UN says some once mighty rivers are running dry as they flow from their headwaters to the sea. "Many major rivers, such as the Colorado in the United States and ones flowing into the Aral Sea, are decreasing in volume as they flow downstream," it says.

The study calculates that the planet recycles about 14 mil-

lion metric tonnes of fresh water which is available for human consumption. But water use is growing at more than twice the rate of population growth.

In 1995 one in five of the world population did not have access to safe drinking water

lion metric tonnes of fresh water which is available for human consumption. But water use is growing at more than twice the rate of population growth.

"The capacity of the hydrological cycle to supply water is being outstripped by the volume of human demands, pollution of water resources and poor management," the report says. By 2025 two thirds of countries in low income areas, such as Africa, Asia and Latin America, will suffer "moder-

ate to severe water stress". Tackling the freshwater crisis will also improve the fortunes of wildlife and help to tackle human diseases. In 1995 20 per cent of the world population did not have access to safe drinking water and 50 per cent lacked water for proper sanitation. At any given time half of the world's poor suffer from sickness linked with unclean water.

The report notes that, when compared with some global environmental issues, the freshwater crisis can be more readily solved given moderate financial and political will. Irrigation of crops accounts for 90 per cent of the world's use of fresh water. But better techniques such as drip irrigation, if exported to the developing world, could reduce water use by 25 to 90 per cent.

Britain believes there are opportunities for British water companies to assist in tackling the threat in the developing world. New ways of pricing water need to be addressed so there is less incentive for industry to pollute. In some arid countries farming needs to be significantly curtailed to conserve supplies. International compensation packages, whereby food from water-rich regions is sold cheaply to these dry areas, need to be drawn up.

Scores of global environmental issues, from how to tackle climate change to saving tropical forests, are likely to lead to summit discord.



Activists on Rockall in the Atlantic with a message for Earth Summit II, protesting against oil exploration

Germans press for global agency

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

GERMANY will today propose the creation of a new World Environment Organisation and suspects that the move is a ruse to fill empty office space in Bonn.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is expected to launch the proposal at the United Nations environment meeting. The Germans want the super agency to oversee the disparate environmental functions of the United Nations system, including the UN Environment Programme

(UNEP), the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the secretariats of the Rio Earth Summit conventions on climate, bio-diversity and desertification.

German officials compare the proposed eco-agency to the World Health Organisation or the recently established World Trade Organisation.

The proposal will be presented as part of a joint initiative with Brazil, Singapore and South Africa, and is supported by powerful UN

figures such as Gus Speth, head of the UN Development Programme, and Maurice Strong, former chairman of the Rio summit.

But many of the 60 world leaders attending this week's United Nations General Assembly session are sceptical about the need for a new agency that would add to the organisation's unwieldy bureaucracy.

Some diplomats even suspect an attempt by Germany to fill up office space in Bonn

that will be left empty when the German Government completes its move to Berlin.

Western nations have been pushing hard to reform the troubled UNEP, based in Nairobi; it is one of only two UN agencies based in Africa. Britain, Spain and the United States suspended their payments to the organisation this year to force changes. In response, UNEP has set up a new supervisory committee comprised of 32 environment ministers.

Return of El Niño heralds worst winter floods and storms for 14 years



Satellite images showing the birth of this year's El Niño, spreading across the globe

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

NEXT winter's storms could be the worst in recent memory for much of western America, thanks to the return of the so-called El Niño effect from the central Pacific, a government meteorologist has warned.

Coastal flooding, blizzards and hundreds of stranded sea-lions are among effects linked to a periodic warming of surface waters thousands of miles off California. The phenomenon is known by the Spanish word for "baby boy" because it comes, like Jesus, in Decem-

ber. This year's El Niño could be the worst since wild storms and extreme high tides wrought havoc on the West Coast and caused an estimated \$8 billion (£4.8 billion) worth of damage worldwide during the winter of 1982-83, according to Ants Leetman, head of the US Climate Prediction Centre in Washington. Nearly 1,500 deaths were also blamed on El Niño-related weather that winter.

Abnormal warming on the surface of the central Pacific generates huge volumes of warm, moist air that disrupt the normal flow of the jet stream, scientists believe. A theory that undersea volcanoes fuel the warming has been discredited,

but research suggests that man-made global warming caused by the build-up of "greenhouse gases" may be worsening the El Niño effect.

Nasa satellites recently measured temperatures 2C (35.6F) above normal in the central Pacific and 4C above normal in coastal waters off North and South America, prompting Mr Leetman's grim forecast. Early signs point to one of the most pronounced El Niño effects of the past 60 years, he said. But not everyone is complaining. Delighted sea anglers have found albacore tuna in record numbers in American coastal waters, brought there by the unusually warm conditions.

WORLD SUMMARY

Netanyahu to face tough vote

Jerusalem: Israel's Opposition Labour Party urgently recalled its deputies from abroad in advance of tomorrow's vote of no-confidence in Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Prime Minister (Christopher Walker writes).

This time Mr Netanyahu's 12-seat majority in the Knesset looks less secure because of disaffection both in his ruling coalition and his own Likud party over last week's resignation of Dan Meridor, the popular Finance Minister. In a sign of further discontent, a Likud Cabinet minister quit on Saturday from her job as co-ordinator between the Government and parliament.

Socialist choice

Madrid: Spain's opposition Socialists, still reeling from the decision by Felipe González, the former Prime Minister, to stand down, chose Joaquín Almunia, 49, the parliamentary spokesman, to replace him (Giles Tremlett writes). The decision followed acrimonious bargaining. Señor González, 55, threw the party conference into disarray on Friday by standing down after 23 years as leader.

Bangui battles

Bangui: The death toll in fighting between disaffected soldiers and peacekeepers in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, which began on Friday, has risen to 23, the Central African Red Cross said. About 70 people have been wounded, including five French citizens, who were hit on Saturday by two mortar bombs that fell on the French embassy compound. (Reuters)

Union boss dies

Mexico City: Fidel Velázquez, Mexico's veteran labour leader who for more than 50 years led the country's trade union movement in unwavering loyalty to a string of presidents, has died aged 97. Velázquez, head of the six million-strong Mexican Workers Confederation (CTM), had swung the CTM's support behind the Institutional Revolutionary Party since 1941. (Reuters)

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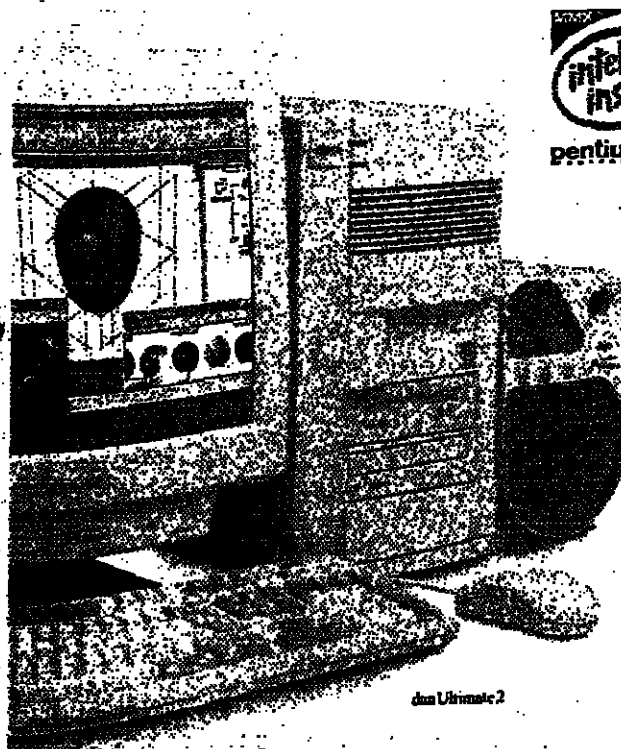
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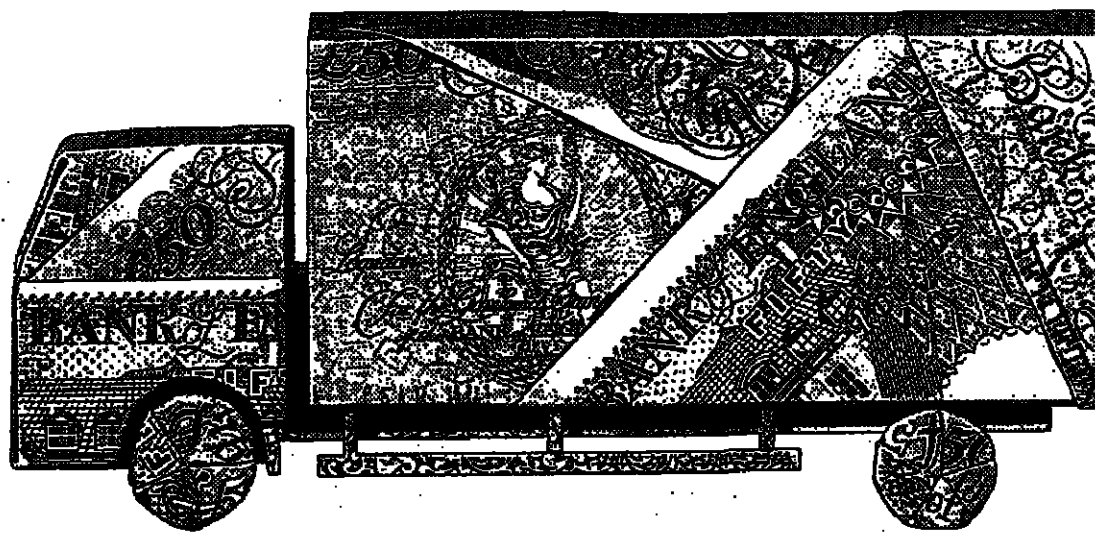
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Why do women scientists make men so afraid?

Anjana Ahuja interviews Pat Shipman, a prizewinning anthropologist who believes she may know the answer

When Pat Shipman received her doctorate in fossil analysis, she sent a résumé of her thesis to the University of Chicago Press for consideration as a textbook. Her manuscript was returned, but for some reason she was never sent the reviewers' comments. It later transpired that one reviewer had declared her research so sub-standard that she must have slept with one of her superiors. Shipman responded to this outrageous slur in the most dignified way possible — by rising to become Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Pennsylvania State University and going on to write several noted books, most recently *The Wisdom of Bones*, co-written with her husband, Professor Alan Walker, which won the £10,000 Rhône-Poulenc Science Book Prize last week.

Incidentally, the rejected manuscript, *Life History of a Fossil*, was picked up by Harvard University Press and, 16 years after its first print run, is still selling well. Shipman's experiences in a predominantly male environment make her well qualified to assess the consequences of women "invading" science, which she is planning to make the subject of her seventh book. Most of her previous books have focused on the science of fossils and human evolution, but she has trod controversial ground before in *The Evolution of Racism*, a brave and much-admired attempt at ignoring political correctness to explain the evolution of different races.

We met at the Science Museum in London, on the day of the Rhône-Poulenc din-

ner. The couple, who fell in love over a hominid fossil skull in Kenya 23 years ago, looked more suited to an expedition in Africa than a rendezvous in wet and chilly London — Shipman, 48, wore a floral skirt and sandals, and Professor Walker, a bear of a man, was encased in a bright blue linen jacket.

The couple say they thought of suing the reviewer but, says Professor Walker, decided that "we were not those kind of people".

"What would be the point?" Shipman shrugs. "In the end, it only destroys you."

In 1990, Shipman abandoned her scientific career to concentrate on writing. Her husband had just won a "Genius" award from the MacArthur Foundation for eminence in his field, which guaranteed an annual income of \$60,000.

For five years, it allowed his wife the freedom to leave her job. "I really felt I had to write about women moving into science," explains Shipman, "as it's such an important issue."

Clever women, especially those who want to rise through the ranks of the scientific establishment, have always come up against opposition from their male colleagues. However, Shipman's book will focus not on whether discrimination happens (we know it happens all the time) but on why. What are men afraid of? "The flag that science carries is one of objectivity and fairness," Shipman says. "Judgments are made based on evidence, so it shouldn't matter what background a person has. Their performance and productivity should be what matters." She will be taking a distinct-



Pat Shipman: "I really felt I had to write about women moving into science"

ly anthropological approach. She compares the rise of women in science to a clash of cultures: "An invasion is occurring. The people who are there to begin with, men, respond to this invasion by closing ranks and patrolling their borders." She also points out that, in this case, there is a curious reversal of territorial infringement, because it is the subordinate culture invading the dominant one. "It's the anthropological equivalent of

the Aborigines shipping their unwanted people to Britain."

However, she is at a loss to explain why men should perceive the rise of women as an "invasion". She thinks it is instinctive and innate, a "basal reaction", and suggests outdated stereotypes are still to blame. "Women are still mainly familiar to men in a domestic setting, so when men run up against women in other settings, it bewilders them."

One all-too-common experience for women scientists, including Shipman, is having junior male colleagues promoted above them.

An astonishing study, recently published in *Nature*, showed that the procedure used by the Swedish Medical Research Council to award post-doctoral fellowships raised most competent women only as highly as the least competent men.

The authors of the *Nature* paper, Christine Wenneras and Agnes Wold, of Gothenburg University, Sweden, studied the appointment of 20 post-doctoral fellowships, from 114 applicants. Sixty-two men and 52 women applied; 16 men and four women were successful. (The authors invoked the Freedom of the Press Act to force the research council to release the documents.)

More research revealed that women who did not know a member of the selection committee making the appointments had to be 2½ times more productive than men to achieve the same competence score. The researchers concluded that being female and not knowing anyone on the selection committee constituted "a double handicap of such severity that it could hardly be compensated for by scientific productivity alone."

"Wasn't it extraordinary?" Shipman exclaims. "If we can understand the social dynamics of what's going on, perhaps we can get men to rise above their instinctive, defensive reaction." She also hopes her book will "map out the landscape" for women scientists so they know where to tread in this difficult jungle.

Again, she invokes an anthropological analogy: "It's like going anywhere new. You learn the customs so you don't offend anyone. It may not be much, but it's better than nothing."

• The Wisdom of Bones is published by Phoenix, £7.99

Ecotones Fuel efficiency Modern flowers

Beyond the fringe

MANY tears have been shed for the disappearing heart of the rainforest, but a new study suggests that we should be equally worried about its ragged edge. Along the fringes where trees shade into savannah, distinctive species evolve and contribute to biological diversity. These areas, the ecotones, have typically been overlooked, says Dr Thomas Smith, of San Francisco State University, the leader of the team. "The general belief is that if we preserve rain forests, we are also preserving the processes that create diversity. But our findings suggest that the engines generating new species and increased biodiversity may lie in unprotected ecotones at the forest periphery."

The team, which included Dr Michael Bruford from the Institute of Zoology in London, spent six years trapping birds with nets from six sites in West African rainforests and another six sites along the edge. They were catching a small bird, the little greenbul, which lives on insects and fruit both in the forest and in patches of forest surrounded by savannah. They measured various characteristics of the birds, including weight, depth of beak, length of wing and leg bones, and the upper jaw. They also took some blood for genetic analysis.

They report in *Science* that the species from the fringes were significantly different from those in the interior, even though the two populations interbred. The ecotone species were heavier, had deeper bills, and



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

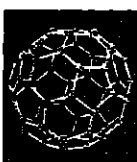
longer wings and legs. The longer wings probably offer an advantage to species living more in the open, because they confer greater speed, enabling them to escape predators.

Yet the genetic studies showed that there was considerable to-and-fro between the populations — about one in ten migrants per generation in each population of birds. This result is striking because it seems to show that birds can develop physical differences under environmental pressures — the first step towards forming a new species — even when there is interbreeding. Classical theories hold that species develop in isolation, while these results show that it may be possible even when there is considerable "gene flow" between neighbouring populations.

If this is true, then there may be important implications for preserving species diversity. In the past, ecotones have tended to be ignored because they look as if they are already damaged, while the heart of the forest remains pristine. But if new species are formed there, "they may move from their ecotone cradle to the forest and contribute to the biodiversity", Dr Smith argues. In that case, the rainforest proper may be a sink for new species, not a source.

That has implications for conservationists, because it is the edges of forests that tend to erode first as a result of burning, wood-gathering, and grazing. "If we lose these habitats, we may be losing the processes that generate biodiversity," he believes.

Lubricants in the machine



WHEN chemists first discovered fullerenes — tiny spheres of carbon made up of 60 atoms linked to create spheres — they hoped they might prove ideal lubricants. Lots of tiny spheres keeping rubbing surfaces apart ought to eliminate friction. But experiments were discouraging.

Now a team at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, led by Professor Reshef Tenne, has discovered a fullerene that is a good lubricant, but it is made of tungsten disulphide, not carbon. At about a millionth of a centimetre across, these molecules are bigger than carbon fullerenes, enabling them to maintain a greater distance between sliding surfaces. In tests reported in *Nature*, the team shows that the tungsten disulphide fullerenes outperform all existing solid lubricants, including normal tungsten disulphide and molybdenum disulphide.

Better lubricants mean less wear and longer-lasting, more fuel-efficient machines. "The material works very well in the laboratory, and our challenge now is to synthesise it in large quantities for testing in the field," says Professor Tenne.

Bumblebee fights against fashion



CHANGING fashions in Britain's gardens are bad news for bumblebees. They already have to compete with honeybees for supplies of nectar, and they start with a disadvantage. Their large size means that they use more energy to fly and therefore need to find more nectar just to survive — but modern flowers do not help.

Many non-native and new varieties are ill-suited for bumblebees, says Dr Sarah Corbet, of Cambridge University, in *New Scientist*. Today many flowers are propagated artificially, which means that they no longer have to set seed, allowing breeders to develop flashy flowers that are inaccessible to bumblebees. The loss of 'hedgerows' crowded with wild perennials is a further blow. Setaside, which encourages annuals at the expense of perennials, makes the problem worse. As a result, bumblebees are in decline, with only six of Britain's 19 species widespread and abundant.

Dr Corbet urges gardeners to help by growing more deep-flowered herbaceous perennials, such as catmint, cornflowers and old-fashioned foxgloves.

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Conservatives in opposition:

After 18 years the Tories are out of power. Michael Gove examines how they, and Labour, are adjusting to their change in circumstance

Jonathan Aitken's fall, like Lucifer's, may have been the most dramatic but his personal tragedy is only one of many humblings still being inflicted on the men who were our masters barely 50 days ago. The Tories may have elected a new leader but many of those who were once William Hague's colleagues are finding it difficult to make a fresh start.

The leadership contest was a civil war which provided for many shell-shocked Tories a continuation of politics by other means. Now that it is over, like the preparations for a funeral, there is no activity to displace the disorientation of the bereaved.

On Thursday night, as the Hague team celebrated in their Victoria headquarters, another group of Tories gathered in a smart Chelsea townhouse a handbag's swing from Margaret Thatcher's old home in Flood Street. It was the dropping of a pilot rather than the piping aboard of a new captain. The man who has kept the Tory party's compass from yawning for 20 years was marking his departure with a small party.

Alistair Cooke, the director of the Conservative Political Centre and editor of its election bibles, engineered his own transition to a slightly safer berth with the Independent Schools' Joint Council. Many of those who had gathered to toast him might have been forgiven a touch of envy.

Neil and Christine Hamilton were two of the highest-profile casualties of the May high tide. They were also two of the most composed of the disposed, gathered there, Hamilton's reputation rests in limbo but that has not prevented him from coping as politicians do when they lose the Commons as an audience —



The face of defeat: Michael Portillo, like many of his colleagues, faces the loss of his Commons audience. A close ally confirms that he wants to return to politics, but an early re-entry seems unlikely

finding another with a book. It will not be the autobiography expected but interest has already been expressed.

Hamilton is scribbling in the Alderly Edge Rectory, which they have no intention of selling. Instead, they have sold themselves, to broadcasters and others, in a market as competitive as any other the Tories created — ex-MPs.

The search for a job dominates thinking. Traditional routes available when the Tories were still in office, from quangocrat to consultant, are all closed off.

The loss of power for the party makes life for its former servants more difficult but has had an effect no less bewildering for those who remain. In the first days back, those Tory MPs who survived wandered along the Commons corridors like shellshock victims pacing First World War wards.

Kenneth Clarke had to ask a Labour MP to direct him to the Leader of the Opposition's office. Michael Howard acquired a bleep for the first time in his life. Someone else had always been there to field the calls before. Other rivals for the leadership who had been used to Whitehall splendour had to operate out of adjacent cubbyholes in a neglected Corridor of the Powerless.

Tories in the country found the adjustment less severe but the disorientation almost as great. Just as Tony Blair thought a call from "the Deputy Prime Minister" meant Hezza was on the line, so one

party activist recalls listening to *Today* and wondering why the Chancellor of the Exchequer sounded Scottish.

Eighteen years of assumptions have been swept away, casual jokes about gaffes "costing us the election" and the quiet pleasure constituency chairmen took in knowing long hours in committee would guarantee the gong and the trip to the Palace.

Watching Labour activists celebrate in the early hours of

for power. For Michael Portillo, apprenticeship in the Conservative Research Department, as aide to Margaret Thatcher, special adviser and long years of ploughing through red boxes were all preparation for the pinnacle.

He has endured the loss of office without rancour. Although the mention of his name has the effect on many of the Left that water has poured on fire — hissing — and the moment when he lost his seat saw chardonnay spilt in excitement across Islington, there are several on the Labour benches who will admit a grudging affection for him.

The Education and Employment Secretary David Blunkett refers to "my friend Michael, a civilised man" and others who have shadowed him acknowledge his charm.

A child of the Left, his father a Republican in the Spanish Civil War, those connections have led to broadcasting offers. Along with Baroness Thatcher he threw himself into last-minute canvassing for William Hague and was delighted by the victory, but one friend acknowledged he has had his low moments.

One of his closest allies confirms he still wants to return to politics, but the prospect of an early re-entry is unlikely. By the time of the next election he would still be shy of 50 and capable of slipping back in at the highest level. Politics is a fickle mistress, but her embrace is impossible to resist.

May 2 could have been dismissed as another setback, the latest by-election humiliation, but the speed with which the climate changed turned that sharp reverse into a dull ache. For one Tory peer, seeing *The Sun* endorse Blair was of a piece with the humiliations visited on John Major during his long recession, but seeing Lord Rothermere take his seat on the Labour benches signalled the end of Empire.

The greatest loss is endured by those who held the highest office, not least those groomed

THE ADVISER had only been in office a week but already he was admitting that power corrupts. Not, of course, the politicians, but the press. He explained: "My minister still tells the same jokes he did as a shadow, but the journalists now laugh more loudly." Accepting the proffered glass of champagne, he grew more expansive: "Of course we are in power to get things done — but you can't help enjoying the attention."

Political moods are more changeable than the weather but Labour's first 50 days have been one, long contented summer. For a party that believed, even more than Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, that spending was the route to happiness, the irony rests in the scale of the change they have wrought without yet having to raid the bank.

Just as the loss of office has had a psychological effect on Tories, so its assumption has brought benefits to Labour and its supporters which are unconnected with having their hands on the purse-strings.

The itch to intervene, once overwhelmingly directed to industry and the economy, has found other outlets. Bans on tobacco advertising, the sale of landmines, and, possibly, foxhunting satisfy pent-up

The power to please

progressive appetites and imbue the new administration with a sense of purpose.

Even — perhaps especially — in education the Government seems determined to disprove the unions' favourite equation — more expenditure plus even more expenditure automatically adds up to improvement. The Schools Minister, Stephen Byers, has argued forcefully since taking office that improved standards flow from following best practice, not plundering the public purse.

At Health, where regular cash injections had led to addiction, Frank Dobson hopes that bureaucratic reform and radical thinking will deliver what the taxpayer will not.

A new tone in Northern Ireland, new emphases at Heritage and new parliaments for Scotland and

Wales all speak to old socialist appetites without offending new Labour's new voters.

Having hit the ground at this pace, however, the problem is keeping it up. Over this first 50 days the only reserves the Government needs to draw on are goodwill but soon, it will have to face the first settling of honeymoon accounts.

Next week's Budget will disappoint some who have placed their faith in the Blair revolution. Although Labour in Opposition tried to deflate expectations there is a roaring bull market in political futures. It is hard to see how Gordon Brown will satisfy those who, despite the warnings, still expect spending rises — unless it means disappointing those who still think no rise in tax rates is the same as no rise in taxes.

GIVEN THE care with which new Labour sought to limit expectations there would be an element of unfairness in the criticism, but the scale and sweep of Labour's actions so far have only raised hopes of what can be done. Power may not only corrupt, it can also imprison.

Those who are currently enjoying the spectacle of journalists laughing louder may find the gentlemen of the press also laugh last.



The Hamiltons: high-profile casualties

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART
Going spare: the Tate mounts a tribute to the top American painter Ellsworth Kelly
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ MUSIC
Dame Gwyneth Jones sings songs by Wagner, Strauss and Sibelius in recital at the Wigmore Hall
CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ FESTIVAL
Spalding Gray brings his monologues to the South Bank's Meltdown jamboree
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ THEATRE
Ben Kingsley stars in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* at the Old Vic
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

I saw the Forth Bridge again the other day and again concluded that it is not only a wonder of 19th-century British engineering, but an object which sends out all the messages of a great work of art. Given that artists are currently considered the sole interpreters of the imagination, and given also the comparatively mean status accorded to engineers, there is more than a little irony here.

What if, in another hundred years, the Forth Bridge still soars across the Firth, not only for ferrying the latest engineering miracles on wheels, but by then indisputably recognised as a work of art far outstripping any of its contemporary sculpted artefacts? What if it is seen to be as full of resonance, of abstracted beauty, as many other artistic marvels which were also set up with little or nothing of art in the minds of their makers? In short, does art always reside where current fashion decides that it must?

Chartres Cathedral was not made as a work of art. It was

Real beauty in the eye of the builder

raised up as a colossal communal act of faith, almost hysterical in its urgency and fundamentalist purpose, designed to honour the Mother of Christ, glorify God, elevate its living wealthy patrons, celebrate the community and educate, through its windows, the illiterate faithful.

No doubt craftsmen were proud of their craft, and a finished job well done would be admired. But the whole, the mass of it, the thing that makes it Chartres was virtually untainted with the preoccupations now considered essential for anyone setting up as an artist. Yet who would dream of denying that the sight and experience of Chartres exists in the same spectrum as that of the Sistine Chapel ceiling?

Just imagine that great bridge over the Firth, its three monumental hexagons joined by urgent dashes and book-ended by taut

ribbon lengths which peg it to the land. It has a moving stillness, as the clouds sail over, the boats sail under, the trains pass through, the water chops and surges at its base. As a design it has a simplicity which is far stronger than the affected simplicity of so much architectural sculpture done this century. And there is the added layer of meaning in that, like Chartres, it has a purpose.

I remember Brigid Brophy writing that Concorde was an outstandingly beautiful work of art. It was true then and continues to be true. As a means of transport it is still questioned every day, but as something which ravages the visual senses it is an eagle we have made for ourselves.

How many more examples are there of functional objects and products being or becoming art? To take just one more example:



Freud's case studies, written out of a medical intention, are now available to read as extraordinary narratives comparable with the best short stories of the past hundred years.

And how many engineers knew, a century ago, that those leaping spans across the Firth of Forth were an artefact of splendour and magnificence that would reach above all the contemporary works of self-conscious sculptors?

In my view there are not enough shots of crowds in today's television coverage of sport. A view is strongly held that the sporting event is a sacred act, as sacred as a play at the National Theatre, and must be watched in wholly concentrated silence broken only when official permission is given to laugh, to applaud or to take a break. But at great sporting events the atmosphere, the crowd, the context, is a huge supporting chorus, and to excise it is to deliver to the viewer half the event.

I am aware that anything that threatens to change the coverage of

cricket especially will be considered anathema. Thus, in the first Test against Australia, although the good-hearted Birmingham crowd was clearly in fine form, we were allowed only the most meagre throwaway references on the radio and the most grudging and guilty little cutaways on television.

Still, even these mean offerings whetted the appetite. Fancy dress, convict uniforms, mad South Sea Island outfits complete with teasingly placed coconuts... there was a genuine and uplifting sense of fun. Had we been there our eyes would certainly have swept across that and taken it in as part of the game. Television has cameras to do that job for us, and it unnecessarily straitjackets itself by averting its lenses.

Then, when certain chants and cheers ripped around the ground, why was there no explanation?

Today's crowd feels itself more articulately part of the game than ever before. Certainly when watching football on television I miss the songs and sense and feeling of the crowd. Television most of all ought to be able to bring this alive.

Of course, I'm not suggesting that the screen be turned over to a barny army of self-publicists (although, in fairness to the Barny Army itself, they're every bit as barny when television is nowhere near them).

When the cameras went into Parliament there were objections that the loonier Members would become even loonier. There seems no evidence of that, and I cannot see that coverage in football and cricket would be an incitement.

With split-screen techniques, the coming of the bigger screen and all the technical tricks which our engineers (heirs of the Forth Bridge) could bring to bear, we could have much more of the event on the screen. Television ought to address itself to the spectacle, as well as to the match.

In service to the caped crusader

Batmans may come and go, but the butler remains the same. W. Stephen Gilbert meets Michael Gough

When you're going to cast Batman's butler, who do you go for but an actor's actor? Michael Gough is such a player, though many would rather rate him a real star, one of the last and best of those "proper thespians" who bring class as well as perfect ease to the screen. Gough himself would make no such claim. "I'm essentially a jobbing actor," he says. "If I'm out of work, I'll be the back end of a donkey."

He has given us his Alfred Pennyworth in all four of the films in the present *Batman* series, a lucrative means of passing years when most men, even most actors, are happy to retire. The reference books say Gough will be 80 this year but he reckons they are wrong. "There was some indecision as to when I was born. My sister said it was 1916. I'd lost my birth certificate."

Approaching 81, Gough has

worked with two *Batman* directors — Tim Burton and now Joel Schumacher — and three actors in the title role. In the latest film, *Batman & Robin*, which opens in Britain this week, it is the television star George Clooney (Doug Ross in *ER*) who dons the cap and moulded body armour of the caped crusader. Gough admires Clooney. "A lovely thing about him is that because I'm old and stupid I'll sometimes say: 'Joel, I don't know what I say in this scene,' and Joel will say, 'cut' and before I can apologise George says, 'I'm sorry Joel I put him off. I was coughing. I caught his eye, my fault.'"

The three Batmen have differed greatly. "Michael Keaton I liked very much. We were all finding our way and we rehearsed together in the studio before shooting started. He was doing gym work and he said 'Come on, you've got to do some too'. I said 'I'll fall to

pieces'. Val Kilmer I had worked with on another film. He's nice but you don't get through to him much. But George is a real mate."

Butlers have been staple figures of stage and screen ever since playwrights added men indoors to gods in conflict. The between-the-wars success of the Jeeves yarns and of Charles Laughton's dazzling 1935 performance in *Ruggles of Red Gap*, shaming the locals by fully reciting the Gettysburg Address, fixed the English butler in upwardly mobile American minds.

From Eric Blore and Aubrey Mather to Denholm Elliott and John Gielgud, English actors have been happy to serve in a role that could so easily suffer diminishing returns. Neither is Gough fazed at being the hired help. Indeed he is fascinated by the real-life trade. "There's a great gaggle



Best of friends: Michael Gough (left) as the butler and George Clooney as his boss in *Batman & Robin*, the latest film in the Hollywood series

of them out there," he says. "Joel's butler goes to butlers' meetings and butlers' outings. They're organised. Funnily enough the original Alfred in the 1950s television series was acted by a friend of mine — dead now. God rest his boots — called Alan Napier. I suppose I'm rather like him in a way, but I've always worked, touch wood, and this is easy compared with things I've been in before."

It was Tim Burton, initiating the current *Batman* cycle, who cast Alfred. "He adores

terrible films," chuckles Gough, "and I did some wonderful terrible films, monster films, but not what you would call Hammer greats. There was one in which I was gripped by a huge gorilla whom I'd bred from a baby and fed ghastly hormones. I had to look up at this thing and yell 'Put me down, Konga'. One of my great lines. 'They were so bad these films, but they did me a great favour because Tim was watching the Tony Awards when I came up for *Bedroom*

Farce in 1979 and he cried 'I know that man, he's in terrible films!' In a way it's to do with making the impossible seem real. I think that may be what he thought I could do."

In his middle and later years, Gough has been much cast as a kind of British archetype, rangy and striking, distinguished and swishy, yet remote and dreamy: one thinks of his Anthony Eden in *Suez* and — a lovely performance this — Livingstone in the epic television series *The Search for the Nile*. Gough

knows that he embodies a kind of native style, but, as he says, "I've always felt myself basically Irish, although I have no right to. My parents were abroad so I used to go to Ireland for the school holidays."

"I remember my brother and I would always get into an Irish carriage on the train from Kings Cross. You could tell an Irish carriage because it was full. In the next carriage you would see one man in a bowler hat with three newspapers spread out and you would

know he was going to be alone, he was filling it up to put people off. Whereas the Irish all got together, out with the bottle."

"That's what I like about filming in America. Everyone's working together. When I come onto the set from the bright sunlight, I say 'Oh my God, I'm blind', and someone will always come and take my hand and walk me across the set. That never happens in this country."

● *Batman & Robin* opens on Friday

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Spotlight on young talent

In snooty circles it was once fashionable to sneer at televised music competitions. The general feeling was that they cheapened music, were usually won by good robots rather than good musicians, and placed too much pressure on fragile talents.

How the mood has changed. Today the classical aficionados have had a horrific glimpse of truly cheap gimmicky: female violinists dressing up like Hamburg streetwalkers. Compared with that, competitions that bring real talents to the attention of millions seem like excellent advertisements.

Certainly none of the five singers who won through to Saturday's final of the Cardiff Singer of the World (sponsored by BP and broadcast live on BBC2 and Radio 3) seemed unduly stressed. And, apart from the curious absence of any soprano or singer from Eastern Europe (the opera houses are packed with bril-

liant young Russians), this quintet seemed representative of tomorrow's stars.

An honest Welsh tenor, Gwyn Hughes Jones, displayed an engaging timbre which just lacked that spark of individuality. The English baritone Christopher Maltman gave a terrific performance of Vaughan Williams's *The Vagabond*, and then sang Britten, Medtner, Schubert, Gounod and Mozart with intelligence and impeccable grooming.

Then came three singers from emerging operatic countries. A Chinese mezzo, Guang Yang, sounded mundane in Schubert but stunned all ears by cascading through Rossini. A personable South African bass-baritone, Abel Motsoadi, was vocally rather stiff in Mozart, and then wisely picked a dreary Handel aria (played terribly by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales) and compounded his error by forgetting it halfway through. Finally, from Venezuela, came a plump belter of a tenor called Aquiles Machado, who already looks like Pavarotti and can imitate the vocal mannerisms too. If only Ma-

chado's tone were as honeyed! And the winners were? Well, Guang Yang took the big prize and Maltman the Lieder Prize. I would have given him both, because he used his brain. Singers who do that should be encouraged. But I am a biased Englishman, and anyway I am not going to argue with a jury including Marilyn Horne and Dame Joan Sutherland.

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OPERA

Covent Garden's troubled Verdi festival continues with *Simon Boccanegra*

OPENS: Saturday
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ARTS
TUESDAY TO
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Youthful gift of professionalism

IF EVER there was an occasion for papering a concert — distributing free tickets to deserving members of the public — this was it. Apart from making the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra feel better at this point in its fiftieth-anniversary European tour, a full Bridgewater Hall of young musicians from in and around Manchester might well have spread a new wave of inspiration and enthusiasm through the region. They would at least have left knowing that a bunch of school age instrumentalists can achieve something not far short of professional standard.

A critical ear could have detected the usual kinds of faults — in intonation and ensemble, for example — but nothing so obtrusive or so consistent as to distract attention from the music. Jon Deak's *Celebration and Remembrance* — an entertaining and even funny showpiece enterprisingly based on themes by the composer's students — was dispatched efficiently and with a pleasingly discreet sense of humour.

There was no serious problem either in Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*. If the CYSO's admirably practical, no-fuss conductor Daniel Hege met an obstacle here it was in stylistic rather than

CONCERTS

technical areas. Certainly, his young players sounded more at home in the affectionately detailed countryside than at a rather perfunctory ball.

And the grotesque hallucinations of the closing stages of the symphony seemed to communicate a more vivid appeal to the youthful imagination than the reveries and passions of the first movement.

All this was a valuable demonstration of what, given such disciplined strings and talented wind players with no unnecessary doublings, a youth orchestra can achieve. The performance of Wieniawski's Violin Concerto in D minor was something else again. The soloist was the orchestra's youngest member, Eamie Keen, whose accomplishment at the age of 13 is so advanced that no ordinary musician of a similar age could hope to emulate her.

Her sound is obviously not fully developed, but her left-hand finger technique is phenomenal, her ear most sensitively adjusted and her understanding in such musically matters as phrasing and colouring even more impressive than the rest.

GERALD LARNER

Sonorous Swedes

THE Yggdrasil Quartet of Aberdeen: they sound splendid before they have even played a note. *Barry Millington* writes. And when they do strike up in Hawkesmoor's Christ Church, Spitalfields, they sound particularly sonorous, the generous acoustics lending amplitude to an already vibrant delivery.

The Swedish ensemble, the Scottish quartet in their title, although their current residency in London might have given them a more sophisticated sound, including two young players from Scandinavia: the Op 13 of Nielsen and the only completed quartet of Grieg, Op 27.

The Nielsen shows considerable maturity in the medium, and the Yggdrasil, indeed, highlighted, both its lyrical effusions and its sturdy vigour.

The rhythms of Grieg's quartet were even more robust, appropriately so, as this was the work the composer characterised as suffering from "a surfeit of folksiness",

so a certain foot-stomping quality is not out of place. The Yggdrasil had this and more: there was a wistful waltz in the *Romanse* which suggested a Tchaikovskyian glimpse of an unattainable beauty across the crowded ballroom.

From the *Bottom of the Soul*, the title of the quartet by Julia Gornelskaya — a Spitalfields commission given its world premiere here — gives a clue as to the conception of the piece. The words are from a disjunct text (author not given), quoted by the composer, which inhabits a disturbed realm of feeling. That anxiety is translated into sound in a number of starkly juxtaposed sections threaded together into an eight-minute structure. Extreme expressionistic moods are conveyed by heavily accented semiquaver groupings, ghostly rustlings (often involving tremolo or playing the wrong side of the bridge) and other techniques. The Yggdrasil made an admirable job of tying all these disparate statements into a cohesive whole.



Carol Yahr as Brunnhilde and Oddbjorn Tennfjord as Wotan in Mike Ashman's straightforward production: "on a purely narrative level this cycle is looking extremely good"

An extraordinary venture

OPERA: John Allison on *Die Walküre*, the second instalment in Norwegian Opera's *Ring* cycle at the Theatre Royal in Norwich

IT is with *Die Walküre* that the drama proper of Wagner's cycle begins, and so Saturday's second part of the Norwegian Opera's *Ring des Nibelungen* was keenly awaited. Most of what had been hinted at in the "preliminary evening", *Das Rheingold*, fell into place, and some dramatic disappointments did little to diminish the impact of this extraordinary venture at Norwich's Theatre Royal.

With the orchestra on better, more refined form, on a musical level this performance surpassed expectations of the opening night. The score bristled with tension from beginning to end, but it never sounded pushed. Heinz Fricke is as good at dealing with long, almost "symphonic" stretches as dramatic incident, and he knows exactly when to be a little more expansive. He conducted one of

the hardest spans in the whole *Ring*, the first act of *Walküre*, in one thrilling sweep. There was a lot of detail in the playing throughout the opera, never at the expense of musical momentum, and Fricke relaxed towards the end and brought real magic to the Magic Fire Music.

The last part of Act I, from *Winterstürme* to the end, was also highly charged thanks to the passionate Siegmund and Sieglinde of Jyrki Niskanen and Kersti Ekeberg. Niskanen was not on his best form at the top, and did not scale his voice down enough in the quieter moments, but his big, baritone tenor makes him a natural in the part.

Gudjon Oskarsson was a dark-toned Hunding, whose brutal mistreatment of Sieglinde was painful to behold.

Oddbjorn Tennfjord, still not singing with the even, top-to-bottom command of notes that makes an ideal Wotan, came into his own here. He set an example to other Wotans by never bellying, and he was more at ease with the tragic figure he portrays in *Die Walküre* than as the god of wheeler-dealing in *Das Rheingold*. Once again, Rosemarie Lang's Fricke found all the beauty there is in her music. Carol Yahr is a fresh-sounding Brunnhilde at the moment, but needs to be careful with

her voice; this former Sieglinde gave a brave, occasionally effortful, performance, but her soprano is still too light for the big part, and she blended rather too easily with the other Valkyries in Act III. At least without the traditional, heavyweight voice she makes an unusually feminine Brunnhilde.

Mike Ashman's staging of the *Ride of the Valkyries* is a moment of grim comic relief. The high-spirited sisters in Madonna-style breastplates really enjoy themselves gathering up the bodies of dead heroes, and in a scene devoid of the traditional Teutonic overtones Ashman introduces amusing cameos of sibling rivalry. He is,

indeed, best at directing individuals. The designer Kathrine Hysing loses her touch here, supplying only a cluster of Christmas trees and a bare ramp for Brunnhilde's rock, but then her naive *Sound of Music* mountain backdrop in Act I had already made one long for a barer stage and more of John Bishop's atmospheric lighting.

Still, those aspects of this straightforward production which might seem inadequate in a major theatre work well in what is a small-house *Ring* in the best sense. Ashman is strong at storytelling, and on a purely narrative level this cycle is looking extremely good. But something is missing in those parts of the work that go beyond fairytales into the realm of myth, and it remains to be seen in the final instalments if Ashman is going to find the deeper meanings which the *Ring* is about.

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Sentenced to the elephant graveyard

Sam Kiley predicts a wildlife catastrophe over ivory trading

The partial lifting of the worldwide ban on trade in ivory last week is a stupid, arrogant and selfish gamble on the future of Africa's elephant population. As if this were not daft enough, the cheering and anthers from southern African delegates to the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) conference in Harare showed that conservation issues are now clouded with racism and nationalism. Such notions do a disservice to wildlife and the people who live alongside it.

When Cites delegates clapped and broke into a chorus of *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica* (God Save Africa) on hearing that they would be able to flog tusks to the Japanese, who turn them into decorative signature seals, I couldn't help muttering "God Save the Elephant". The Almighty alone can now do much for the wretched creatures.

At first glance the southern Africans have a perfectly reasonable argument for lifting the Cites ban on trade in ivory. Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, which have too many elephants, will be able to sell off their huge stockpiles to Japan. This will generate up to £15 million of much-needed funds for conservation. No sensible environmentalist disagrees with the argument that Africa's wildlife should not only pay for itself, but turn a profit for its human hosts if it is to survive. This is the central theme of all conservation planning, from Kenya to the Cape.

African leaders trying to cope with populations expanding at a rate of some 3 per cent a year have a tough time explaining why vast tracts of land must be set aside for animals, while their own populations go hungry.

In return for allowing them to sell off their ivory, the southern African states agreed to wait 18 months before exporting their tusks while a system is set up to monitor poaching and other effects of the renewed trade.

The three countries will be able to sell only part of their stockpiles, and will not cull elephants specifically for the ivory trade. In addition, if one of them fails to ensure that only its own excess ivory is sold it would automatically lose its right to trade in elephant tusks.

All this sounds fine. But it is nonsense. There is no way that the southern African states could control the trade in ivory. The region is a major trans-shipment point for hard drugs and weapons. South Africa, which also wants to sell its ivory, has probably the highest murder rate in the world, a hopeless and corrupt police force and a Customs department riddled with apartheid-era arms and contraband smugglers. During the 1980s, the South African Government itself was involved in ivory smuggling from Angola.

Zimbabwe's National Parks Department, which claims to want to cut its elephant population from 120,000 to 65,000, is plagued by infighting and

political interference. For all the country's boasts of being a leader in conservation, Zimbabwe's black rhino population has vanished from the wild over the past decade. If anti-poaching units could not stop the killing of rhino, why should we believe the same authorities will be able to stop the slaughter of elephants?

In addition, Japan — ivory's biggest market — has shown little regard for the conservation of any species (think of whales). And a country in which people fall in love with battery-powered "electronic pets" hanging from key rings can hardly be expected to have the interests of African pachyderms at heart.

East African conservationists — notably Richard Leakey, who as director of Kenya Wildlife Services was instrumental in getting the Cites ban imposed in 1989 — are deeply sympathetic to the southern African desire to make money out of game. But they argue that elephant populations have not yet recovered from the poaching massacres of the 1970s and 1980s and that they could not cope with another surge in elephant killings.

Why should such a slaughter follow a partial lifting of the ivory trading ban? Because (according to Esmund Bradley-Martin, the world's leading authority on trade in ivory and rhino horn) the mere expectation that the ban on ivory trading might be lifted ahead of the 1995 Cites meeting led to an increase in the price of ivory. "Speculators buy up stocks held in Japan and elsewhere in the hope that they will be able to trade in ivory," he wrote at the time.

The ban drove the price of ivory right through the floor, making it uneconomical to poach. An end to the ban would, in the short and medium term, inevitably result in an increase in ivory prices and therefore probably poaching.

One can, therefore, predict that if ivory is back in the marketplace, and legally sold in shops, poachers and smugglers will have a field-day in Tsavo and the Serengeti. Worse still, the unpatrolled forests of the Congo and Niger River basins in Central and West Africa would swiftly lose their elephants.

Westerners who have put pressure on Zimbabwe to maintain an ivory ban were told by Chen Chimutengwende, the Environment Minister, that they are "just racist and do not like the urbanisation or development of Africa because they like Africa to be one big zoo where they will just come as tourists and see poor blacks practising their traditions and living with wild animals".

This is a nasty little smokescreen to hide a contemptuous attitude towards the rest of the African ecosystem among the self-styled conservationists of southern Africa at Cites.

I doubt whether they care one jot what happens to the 300,000 or more elephants in the north of the continent.

Ideals of freedom and enterprise that swept Thatcher to power are being restored to the agenda

The Tory radical is back in business

William Rees-Mogg

It is worth taking a closer look at Cecil Parkinson's beliefs; apart from the sensible generosity to John Redwood, he is the one real surprise in William Hague's appointments. His job, as chairman of the Conservative Party, will be to do for William Hague what Peter Thorcroft did so well for Margaret Thatcher after 1975.

Lord Parkinson has never been a favourite with the intellectuals, which has made some of them underestimate his intelligence. His autobiography, *Right at the Centre*, which was published in 1992, is one of the most observant of the memoirs of leading figures in the Thatcher period. Perhaps the most interesting section is the Epilogue, in which he argues that Margaret Thatcher's real contribution was not to invent Thatcherism, but "to prove that these ideas could in fact work".

He went on to sum up the political experiences of his own life. "I still marvel at the fact that a young man from Camford, who set out as a schoolboy to promote socialism, should have ended his career working for its destruction; that the son of a railwayman should have committed a Conservative Government to the privatisation of the railways; that the son of a 'Bevin Boy' should have committed a Conservative Government to the privatisation of the coal industry; that a former treasurer of the Labour League of Youth in a small northern town should have become chairman of the Conservative Party; that a person who had spent a substantial part of his working life in the City of London, and who had wondered at its autocratic and exclusive nature, should have had the opportunity to open up the Stock Exchange to someone who in an early stage of his life was a socialist should have served in a War Cabinet."

This passage brings out one of the

sources of energy of the Thatcher revolution; it was a revolution for converts and was partly made by converts. It was not made by the people of privilege, by the old professional middle class, the larger businessmen, or the landed aristocracy, to protect their interests. It was made by the emerging middle class to enlarge their freedoms.

As Parkinson puts it: "The policies were all designed to promote choice, to tackle the power of the big battalions and to reduce the role of the bureaucracy in the everyday lives of ordinary people." The revolution has been widely misunderstood because it came not from the bottom up, nor from the top down, but from the lower middle up. No wonder the reaction was so snobbish, intellectually and socially.

The reason these policies were such a success in the 1980s was that she won this social backing. The risks she took were not well supported by the ministers in her 1979 Government, who themselves came from privilege. She had to get rid of most of the Tory grandees because they were "wets". In 1997 the Conservative Party was so badly defeated because it had lost the support of this underprivileged middle class, which Margaret Thatcher understood so well. In the constituencies where that class was strongest, the swing against the Tories tended to be exceptionally large.

It is also worth taking a closer look at Peter Lilley's political beliefs. He

has been appointed Shadow Chancellor and put in charge of the development of policy. We know a good deal about his philosophy of politics. In the Major Cabinet he was a quiet, skilful reformer of social security. He put through a number of Bills, none of which will be reversed by the new Government. He helped to put Britain into the lead of Europe in future pension planning. Britain will not face anything like the unfunded pensions problem that will confront the rest of the EU in the next century.

This Austrian view, known to English readers largely through the works of Hayek and von Mises, has a profound implication. When governments intervene to counteract economic trends, they are more than likely to make things worse. Minimal government intervention is not only justified on grounds of liberty, but also on the pragmatic grounds that most intervention does not work. I do not think Gordon Brown, or even Tony Blair, really believes that.

One should also look at the broad beliefs of most Conservative MPs. In the first round of the leadership election there were five candidates, four of whom were broadly supporters of Thatcherite principles, and one, Kenneth Clarke, who was broadly an opponent. To call the four "Thatcherites" would be a mistake. Thatcherism was a specific response to the situation as it existed in the 1970s and 1980s. Yet all four, William Hague, John Redwood, Peter Lilley and Michael Howard, are committed to the ideas which originally inspired Thatcherism. Kenneth Clarke is not. He is much more sympathetic to the statist and Europeanist ideas of Ted Heath.

In the first ballot, 115 votes were cast for the four, and 49 for Clarke; in

the final ballot, 92 votes were cast for Hague and 70 for Clarke. The "Thatcherite" vote was therefore 70 per cent on the first ballot and still more than 55 per cent on the final ballot. The old principles have come back to dominate the Conservative Party, both in the House of Commons and in the constituency associations.

The leading anti-Thatcher figures of the 1992 Parliament were Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and Douglas Hurd. They all belonged to the Heath era. Under John Major they held the three senior offices of state, Deputy Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Foreign Secretary, for most of the time. Now they are gone. Two have retired from the front bench and the third from the Commons. The Heath generation has finally past, though it may still rumble a bit on the back benches.

Hague believes in smaller government, lower taxes and a cautious approach to Europe. Parkinson believes in freeing ordinary people from the power of the big battalions, particularly of state bureaucracy. Peter Lilley believes that the State does not know best. He has been influenced by the Austrian school, with its emphasis on the superior information available to the market and on subjective expectations.

These three men all recognise their debt to Margaret Thatcher, without regarding her policy decisions of the 1980s as holy writ for the 21st century. They share an ideology of freedom and enterprise. They appeal to the same audience of the underprivileged middle class. They now have power in the Conservative Party. Hague is leader; Parkinson is chairman. Lilley is Shadow Chancellor responsible for policy. They will undoubtedly be loyal to each other and the party in Parliament and in the country will be loyal to them. As of last weekend, the Conservative Party again has a radical social message to put across.

Blair's cavalry sets the pace

Labour is defining the battle lines for Hague, says Peter Riddell



William Hague's prospects as Conservative leader depend on whether a Third Way exists in reality as well as in rhetoric. This is not some bizarre New Age fad for the millennium, nor a reference to Mr Hague's practice of transcendental meditation. The Third Way is what Tony Blair calls his attempt to "marry together an open, competitive and successful economy with a just, decent and humane society".

Alternatively, you could describe it as globalisation plus government with a social conscience. Mr Blair has defined the ideological battleground where Mr Hague will now try to rally and regroup his battered army.

Mr Hague and his new team face the same dilemma that Tory strategists did before the election: how to identify, and therefore fight, their enemy. Before May 1, the Tories never settled on a coherent line about whether Labour was really "new" or "old". Mr Blair eluded them then, through his abandonment of past Labour policies on the trade unions, spending and taxes, and by his embrace of the free market and his pro-family and tough-on-crime emphasis.

Since May 1, Tory spokesmen have been torn between gleefully detecting the reappearance of "old" Labour and recognising that new Labour exists. The Tories denounced the Amsterdam treaty as a sell-out of British interests, when it is really a minimalist exercise presented as a success by Mr Blair in familiar Tory terms of resisting further European integration.

So it is daft to pretend that the Blair Government has reverted to the practices of past Labour administra-

tions. Remember, the first 18 months of the Wilson Government in 1974-75 were dominated by a series of costly concessions to the unions, battles with business over proposals for extensive intervention and big increases in public spending and taxes. But since May 1, the Government has actively courted industry, appointing businessmen to key posts, and has underlined its anti-inflation credentials by making the Bank of England responsible for setting interest rates.

There have, of course, been muddled signals and inconsistencies — particularly over some crudely populist attacks on pay rises at Camelot and profits at other utilities. But the Government quickly defused the row over Camelot and sought to reassure business that it would not be interfering in their decisions. Moreover, the performance of some privatised util-

ities, notably water, is inadequate.

In a recent issue of the *New Statesman*, John Lloyd attempted to define the Government's proposals along a Right-to-Left spectrum. There has been a spread, fitting Mr Blair's "what works" pragmatism. For instance, the phasing out of the Assisted Places Scheme and the scrapping of nursery vouchers have been balanced by tough action against failing schools, and poor teachers, that have been opposed by the unions. It is harder to put labels on other initiatives, such as the attempt to revive the Private Finance Initiative and to extend private-public partnerships across the range of social, environmental and transport policies, and the shift from a red-

tributive approach to welfare to an emphasis more on reducing the barriers to work. Much of this builds on policies launched by the Tories.

The Tories should concentrate on questioning whether the Blair Government can achieve its new goals: whether they are called "new" Labour, the radical centre or the Third Way. Or whether, as David Willetts has argued, Labour is trying to have the best of both worlds in seeking to be both tough and caring. The Tories should challenge Labour on its own terms: whether it can meet in office the expenditure targets it accepted in Opposition in the face of pressure from its supporters and MPs to spend more.

Peter Lilley, the new Shadow Chancellor, has questioned whether Labour will be able, as it claims, to finance extra spending on education

from savings on welfare. Spending will be the critical test for Labour, even if there has to be some short-term increase in the unrealistically tight Tory budgets for health and education.

More broadly, the Tories should question whether Labour can really deliver a more competitive economy and whether it is willing to deregulate and make labour markets more flexible. Differences of approach and instinct between Mr Blair and his allies and some "old" Labour departmental ministers have yet to be resolved here.

All parties like to create a distance between themselves and their opponents — the "clear blue water" that the Tory Right sought before the election. But just because Labour has adopted some Tory language, and policies, that does not mean it makes sense for Mr Hague to lurch off in a radical direction. That is a misreading of why the Tories lost on May 1.

Of course, there is ample scope for fresh thinking, on taxation, the running and financing of public services and welfare. However, the Tories should be wary of American parallels: as my colleague Tim Hames and the political scientist Alan Grant argue in a new Social Market Foundation paper, it is wrong to draw too close a comparison with the Republican experience since 1992. Some ideas, like a single income tax rate, are worth considering, but the interesting ideas on welfare and crime are more at a state and local than a federal level.

The Tories will gain nothing from a self-obsessed search for ideological purity, or from taking premature positions on Europe and devolution where much may change. Their problem is to regain public confidence and trust — just as they did in the late 1940s and Labour did over 18 years.

This does not mean the Tories should merely accept what the Blair Government does. But it does mean recognising that the political landscape is being reshaped by Labour in its search for the Third Way — and its success or failure will largely determine the Tory alternative.

Damp demo

The torrential rain has dampened proceedings on what must surely be London's most fashionable picket line. Led by Margaret Drabble and her husband Michael Holroyd, and backed by such well-known authors as Fay Weldon, Antonia Fraser and Harold Pinter, the ultimate in highbrow demonstrations takes place each Monday evening outside the Iranian Embassy at Prince's Gate, Kensington. The siege, however, does not require the attentions of the SAS.



PEN friend: Michael Holroyd

being a non-violent protest against the detention and impending trial of Faraj Sarkoobi, an Iranian writer and editor of the cultural magazine *Adineh*, held on charges of spying and adultery.

The bookish demonstrators, all members of PEN, the writers' organisation which campaigns for freedom of expression, have put aside their typewriters for placards and banners, fearing a fate for Mr Sarkoobi similar to that of Ken Saro-Wiwa's, the Nigerian author executed by his Government two years ago.

Levels of morale differ among the encamped. "You feel that these people are laughing at you," says Fay Weldon. "There is very little you can do — we just walk up and down on the other side of the road while they take pictures from the embassy." Michael Holroyd is more optimistic: "On one of our first afternoons there we noticed that the embassy's flag had been lowered. 'Good God, they've surrendered,' we thought. Later it transpired that the flag was brought down because the staff were going home."

As for the weather, the protesters



keep their spirits up by munching on Iranian sweets. "They cheer us up when it's raining," says Holroyd.

Sword play

FINALLY, an answer to that nasty social conundrum, what to do with the Sword of State when visiting Buckingham Palace. Writing in *Royal Command*, a forelock-tugging new book of accounts of service in the Royal Household published by Peter Owen, Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer, Gentleman Usher to the Sword of State, 1973-1980, remembers his first State Opening of Parliament: "I asked what I should do with the sword when I got back to Buckingham Palace. 'Oh,' I was told, 'you leave it on the billiard table.' I could

imagine the embarrassing headline if it was mislaid: 'Admiral says he left it on Billiard Table.' However, all was well, and on each occasion, when the ceremonial was completed, I and others were invited to have a glass of sherry with Her Majesty."

Sobering news for William Hague and his fresh-faced followers from William Hill. Minutes after Hague's victory in the leadership contest on Thursday, the odds on the Tories winning the next general election were lengthened from 5-4 to 6-4. Worse was to come when Lord Parkinson was resurrected as party chairman: the odds promptly hit a record low of 7-4.

Lofty ideal

POLIOAGE of a certain kind has always been high on the agenda for those who attend the Glastonbury Festival but next weekend the event's organisers will be encouraging the 100,000 partygoers to invest in a tree each. The idea is part of a project to plant two new oak and larch forests in Britain.

Dan Morell, of the Future Forests campaign, has recruited Michael Eavis, the Glastonbury Festival organiser, as well as pop stars Sting, Simon Le Bon and Dave

Stewart to his cause. Morell said: "It is a world first. The object is to plant one tree for everybody that attends. By doing so the trees will absorb over 20,000 tons of carbon in the atmosphere. We have two sites: one near the Mendips in Somerset and one near the Avon Mead roundabout, Bristol."

Pax facts

FROM the left-wing weekly *Tribune* comes a dark tale from the past of Jeremy Paxman, *Newsnight's* grand inquisitor. It



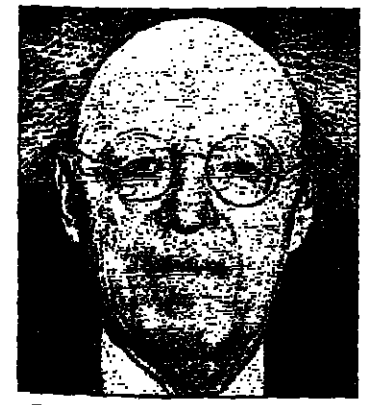
seems that in 1982, Paxman applied to edit the *New Statesman* magazine on a platform of bringing back good writing. At the time Paxman, according to *Tribune*, was an active member of the National Union of Journalists, in favour of the abolition of the House of Lords and a self-proclaimed socialist. New Labour's new ministers might care to bear all this in mind the next time Paxman decides to turn up the heat.

Old hound

A FIGUREHEAD has emerged to champion the cause of hunting in the face of impending anti-fieldsports legislation. The corpulent frame and ruddy face of Sir Stephen Hastings, ex-long-serving Tory MP and Second World War SAS hero, has risen head and shoulders above the scarlet coats and silk caps of the rest of the pro-hunting field. Not only will Sir Stephen be orchestrating the British Field Sports Society's July 10 assault on Hyde Park in protest against what he describes as "the ceaseless persecution of the countryside and its ways" but, in defiant mood as Joint Master of the Fitzwilliam Hunt, he has recently advertised for a new head groom. It is yet to be seen whether Sir Stephen's cousin

Max Hastings, Editor of the *Evening Standard*, will endorse his campaign.

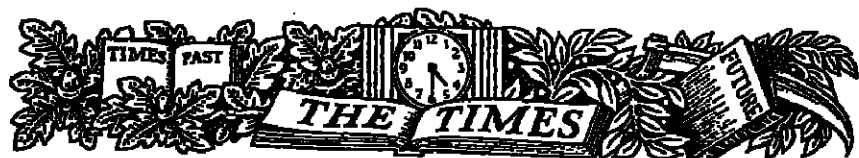
● Lord Longford, the 91-year-old Labour peer and champion of the underdog, seems to have suffered



Longford: what's in a name?

a brief fit of amnesia yesterday. While delivering a letter of support to Jonathan Aitken's house in Lord North Street, Westminster, the patron peer of lost causes went unrecognised by the waiting paparazzi. When he was asked his name, he replied "Lord Lucan".

P-H-S



THE TORY TEAM

Radicalism and reassurance mark the Hague Shadow Cabinet

William Hague has shown a capacity simultaneously to surprise and reassure with his Shadow Cabinet. The recall of Lord Parkinson and Sir Norman Fowler as well as the promotion of Iain Duncan Smith was as unexpected by them as it was predicted by outsiders, but the mix of appointments has something to hearten most strands within the party. The team assembled will not be the next Tory government, but it is capable of making the Conservatives' eventual return to power a reality.

The appointment of Lord Parkinson as Party Chairman 16 years after he first took on the role may seem incongruous from a leader who promised a "fresh start", but it could be a shrewd deployment. The scale of party reorganisation that Mr Hague envisages will unsettle many Tories. Although party members will be grateful for a larger say in the choice of leader and policy there could be resistance to the necessary sacrifice of autonomy by constituency associations. The affection in which Lord Parkinson is held by activists allows him to play a role similar to John Prescott's in Labour's modernisation, as the guarantor to the grass roots that their instincts will be protected.

The appointments of Peter Lilley as Shadow Chancellor with responsibility for policy development and Iain Duncan Smith as Shadow Social Security Secretary seem to provide another guarantee — the Opposition looks determined to make the next election a battle of ideas. Shallow analysis of the Shadow Cabinet's composition has concentrated on a perceived victory for "the Right" but it would be more appropriate to think of it as a gain for radicalism.

The Tory party's recovery after defeat in 1945 and 1974 depended on a return to principles of economic liberalism balanced by an openness to changing social trends. Rather than pitching camp on the centre-ground, the Tories sought to colonise virgin

intellectual territory with policies framed to fit new challenges. The Tories must look to shift, not to the Right as such, but towards solutions for popular concerns which emphasise choice. Mr Hague has, privately, entertained radical thoughts on education and his libertarian instincts could be an effective foil to the Government.

Mr Lilley's record in office proved he can change the terms of debate on difficult issues. Mr Duncan Smith proved himself one of the most original minds on the back benches in the last Parliament. In the shrunken parliamentary party they are the obvious policy pathfinders.

They have a natural ally in David Willetts, and it is a pity there is no place for him in the Shadow Cabinet. Francis Maude, John Maples and Alastair Goodlad are able men but Mr Willetts is possessed of one of the most fertile intellects in his party. Aside from his omission, the most notable deficiency is the paucity of women. Given the strength of Labour's female ministers it is to be hoped that Gillian Shepherd is quickly joined at the Shadow Cabinet table by talented colleagues such as Angela Browning.

The decision not to appoint Shadow Welsh and Scottish Secretaries but make Michael Ancram the spokesman on the constitution is a sensitive response to the Tories' annihilation outside England. Mr Ancram is a sure-footed sherpa on the contours of the British constitution. His appointment is also an indication that, even though devolution will be opposed, the Tories are giving thought to how to adjust to its likely implementation when the offices of Scottish and Welsh Secretary will lose much of their weight. Faced with a purposeful Government sustained by a huge majority the Tories will find it difficult in most areas to make much of an impact, but the team Mr Hague has chosen is capable of mounting a spirited challenge.

MILE-HIGH SUMMIT

America's infectious optimism produced solid results

Few cities in America have done more to pull themselves out of recession than Denver. In the mid-1980s Denver was a byword for the collapse of the local energy and defence industries. Today it is thriving as never before — a showcase for America's boom in electronics, financial services and communications. It was appropriate, therefore, that President Clinton chose the Rocky Mountain City for this year's annual gathering of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries, now extended to include Russia and renamed the Summit of Eight. The leaders seemed to be influenced by the optimistic philosophy of the aptly named Mile High City.

In both the economic field, where a landmark agreement on mutual recognition of standards and qualifications was signed between America and the European Union, and in such contentious foreign policy issues as Hong Kong, Iran and Bosnia, this summit produced significant results.

President Clinton can claim considerable credit. The main achievements of his Presidency have been economic. Even such passionate advocates of the European economic model as Helmut Kohl and Jacques Santer showed signs of recognising the potency of the American economic formula based on competitive markets, modest government spending and a monetary policy designed to foster economic expansion and allow the creation of jobs.

Politically, the summit's main achievements was to bring Russia into the community of western nations. President Clinton unilaterally decided to reward Russia with virtual full membership of the world's most influential gathering as thanks

for President Yeltsin's signature of the Russia-Nato accord. The politics of inclusion paid off in at least three areas where Moscow might have blocked progress.

Russia had no quibble with a strong statement on Hong Kong that was welcome to Tony Blair. This was a clear reminder to Beijing that the world will be watching its behaviour, especially on human rights, after July 1. The leaders also looked forward to democratic elections for a new legislature as soon as possible — a clear hint that China must urgently seek legitimacy for Hong Kong's new government.

The declaration on Iran was also tougher than expected, calling on Tehran to respect human rights and renounce terrorism. Russia, which has done profitable business equipping Iran's nuclear industry, endorsed the call on all states to avoid helping Iran to acquire nuclear weapons capabilities. And similarly on Iraq, where Moscow has chafed at continuing sanctions, Mr Yeltsin agreed that only "full compliance" with UN resolutions would allow the lifting of sanctions. The summit negotiations also yielded an understanding that Moscow would not veto a tough UN response to Iraq's harassment of UN weapons inspectors.

Less was achieved at the summit on the environment and carbon dioxide emissions, although this was supposed to be a key item on the agenda. America, Japan and Canada are still unwilling to meet tough new commitments. Summits often suffer from excessive quibbling about communiqué language. Denver was no exception. But behind the flaccid language some important commitments were made.

RIGHT TO KNOW

Releasing documents early is desirable, but has its drawbacks

Historians and civil libertarians will instinctively welcome the Government's idea of releasing state papers for public inspection after 20 years or less, instead of the 30-year delay imposed by the Public Records Act. But like most items of good news which emanate from the government machine, this one will come with numerous strings, not to say red tapes, attached. There is an obvious public interest in exposing the inner workings of government to scrutiny and reaching objective conclusions about important historical events. But against these advantages, there have always been three main objections to the early release of documents.

The problems become obvious if we reflect that a 20-year rule would only just have covered the length of the last Tory Government and would not even have spanned the frontbench careers of such leading ministers as Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke — or, for that matter, the recently reinstated Lord Parkinson. It would certainly be entertaining to know exactly what Baroness Thatcher thought about Lord Parkinson's private life or what Mr Heseltine and Sir Leon Brittan said about each other in Cabinet during the Westland affair. However, the disclosure of such information when the key participants are still public figures does have its drawbacks.

First, early release can have an intimidating effect on the people within government. If ministers and civil servants know that their confidential advice and off-the-cuff comments are going to be emblazoned in

newspaper headlines while they are still in public life, they may become less imaginative and more cautious in the views they express. Secondly, there is the danger that official documents will become less honest, as minute-takers censor potentially embarrassing oral comments. Such self-censorship would make all official documents less useful, not only to the government machine, but also to historians.

Thirdly, and perhaps most seriously, the release of most documents after a short waiting period might only encourage those that are genuinely controversial and interesting to be held back as "exceptionally sensitive". At present senior civil servants sift documents scheduled for release under the 30-year rule and hold back those deemed exceptionally sensitive for 50 or 75. Indeed, according to Lord Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, there will always be some documents so sensitive that they can never be released — not even in 100 years' time. It is easy to imagine the piles of supposedly ultra-sensitive documents growing like Topsy if the 30-year rule were removed.

These arguments do not add up to a case against reducing the present 30-year limit. Indeed, there are counter-arguments to all the objections — not least the propensity of ministers and civil servants to keep private diaries and then spill the beans once they leave power. On balance, the benefits of reducing the 30-year wait for public documents exceed the drawbacks. But any new legislation must be carefully designed.

'Challenges' of the Amsterdam treaty

From the Foreign Secretary

Sir, I was surprised to read your leading article, "Half the story" (June 19), which was critical of the outcome of the Amsterdam summit.

The outcome of the inter-governmental conference was good for Britain and Europe, not least because it addresses issues which make a real difference to people's lives. Winning legal security for maintaining our frontier controls was a prize which successive Conservative Governments failed to achieve. We also agreed arrangements which will strengthen our co-operation against international crime.

The treaty contains concrete new provisions on employment, environmental protection, combating discrimination, and beating fraud. It will help Europe act more effectively on the world stage. And it will give teeth to the principle of subsidiarity — ensuring that action is only taken at European level when that is needed.

We have protected British interests in areas where some of our partners originally wanted to go further than we thought wise, notably on defence where the treaty confirms that our defence policy rests firmly on Nato. And we have preserved Britain's veto in all key areas — including foreign policy and in new flexible arrangements by which smaller groups of member states can co-operate together.

Contrary to *The Times's* view, I suspect that such arrangements will be used rarely. The arrival of a new Labour Government with a constructive approach to Europe makes it much less likely that Europe will risk weakening the single market and other shared policies by splitting into different groups.

What you saw in Amsterdam was the federalists and integrationists, who reached their peak when a Conservative Prime Minister was at Maastricht, in retreat. I was surprised this did not find favour with *The Times*. The old European obsession with institutional mechanics is giving way to a new agenda which re-connects with our citizens' lives. Amsterdam showed that the new British Government is in the lead in moving Europe forward to meet the new challenges.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN COOK,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
Whitehall, SW1,
June 20.

From the Director of Justice

Sir, The Home Secretary is correct in implying that the question of border control and the development of common policies on immigration and asylum are divisible ("Britain is no longer borderline", June 19). However, although it is clear that the UK is to maintain the former, it is not yet clear to what extent it is to play a part in developing the latter.

As a result of the new Amsterdam treaty provision, common immigration and asylum policies are going to develop within Community law for the first time. The danger is that they will reflect the lowest common denominator of states' current practice. Those policies will in practice affect the UK, even if it opts out. But the UK will not be able to influence the policies, unless it opts in. Only by participating in the process can the new Government play a part in developing fair and effective procedures throughout the EU in this sensitive area.

Nor is there any reason for the UK to remain so negative about the role of the European Court of Justice in matters such as European policing agreements. Currently, for example, the UK is the only country not to accept the court's role in interpreting the Europol convention, which establishes an EU-wide police intelligence database.

Such agreements, which affect the rights of citizens of all member states, cannot satisfactorily be interpreted by domestic courts alone. The European Court, as a supervisory higher court, has a vital role in ensuring uniform application of common policies in accordance with international human rights standards.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE OWERS,
Director, Justice,
59 Carter Lane, EC4,
June 19.

Commons crèche

From Mr T. J. Elliott

Sir, Yet again Labour MPs campaign to close the excellent rifle range in the House of Commons (report, June 10) and to turn it into a crèche.

Certainly when I shot there in the early 1980s it was the sort of subterranean place which Edgar Allan Poe would have chosen for walling up his cat. Edward II would, without doubt, have preferred Berkeley Castle — if given the choice.

Would any council in the UK authorise it for such usage?

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY ELLIOTT
(National Rifle Association
Chief National Coach
(Target Rifle), 1988-95,
Lark Hill,
Haynes West End, Bedfordshire.

Letters may be faxed to
0171-782-5046.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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PM's go-ahead for Greenwich dome

From Mr Allen Levy

Sir, Your editorial today, "Millennium gamble", referring to Mr Blair's seemingly unilateral decision to proceed with the Greenwich project, confers on him the accolade of being a "Cavalier".

I suggest that committing more than half a billion pounds to an ill-defined exhibition is extremely "cavalier". To suggest that £200 million taken from the National Lottery is not "public money" flies in the face of the opinions (and pockets) of all those in the regions for whom the junketings at Greenwich will be irrelevant.

Some transparency on how the funding gap might be bridged, in a worst-case scenario, might have been in order before hoisting the circus tent.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN LEVY,
3 Stanley Gardens, W11,
June 20.

From Admiral of the Fleet
Lord Lewin

Sir, I regret the decision to proceed with the Greenwich Millennium Festival.

Comparisons have been made to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Then the country was emerging from more than ten years of wartime and post-war austerity. Petrol and food were still rationed. The nation needed an uplift. The circumstances today are entirely different. Is there really public support for the expenditure of £500 million, perhaps £800 million, on the erection of a vast ephemeral plastic tent, the interior attractions of which remain vague? It is claimed that its life can be extended, but for how long, for what use and for what cost? And how will it look in 300 years' time?

Well before the millennium, that part of Greenwich which embraces the Royal Park, the old Royal Observatory (the origin of the Greenwich Meridian), the National Maritime Museum and the Royal Naval College is likely to be declared a World Heritage Site with the title "Maritime Greenwich". How much better to spend a small proportion of the money projected for the festival, say £100 million, on a major and imaginative refurbishment of this im-

portant part of our heritage, so that coming generations may enjoy it for the next thousand years.

Yours sincerely,
LEWIN,
House of Lords,
June 20.

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, I believe the Prime Minister's decision to go ahead with the Greenwich exhibition (report, June 20) has been based not on logic but heart and the influence of those who are "organising" it. I think it is a decision he will soon regret.

Michael Heseltine's decision to hold the exhibition on a windswept peninsula in the middle of nowhere in the outer suburbs of London, serviced by a single Underground station, was a recipe for disaster from day one. Nothing has happened since that day to change that view.

There is no way, when the likes of the Corporation of London withdraw their £6 million support, that the considerable shortfall in funds will ever be made up from the commercial world; and the shutting out of the regions will make those outside London less likely to contribute.

It is very sad that the groundswell of opinion against the Greenwich extravaganza has been ignored and we must now accept the possibility that our national celebratory exhibition will be designed and constructed from outside the UK (report, later editions, June 6).

Yours faithfully,
IVOR HALL
(Architect and exhibition designer),
29 Erskine Hill, NW11,
June 19.

From Mr David Lockwood

Sir, The Government should have killed two birds with one stone (and saved money) by cancelling the Greenwich exhibition but funding the Stonehenge project (letters, June 18). One is ephemeral and risky, the other near-eternal and certain.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LOCKWOOD,
11 Dale Street,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
lockwood@dircon.co.uk
June 18.

Police discipline

From Mr Keir Steel

Sir, In a recently broadcast television interview the Police Complaints Authority and senior managers in the police service called for a lowering of the burden of proof in cases of police discipline. They appeared to argue that this will assist in fighting corruption. I regard this as nothing short of a "cop-out".

The public need to know that corrupt officers are being properly dealt with and do not just lose their job. The police need to know that corruption, indeed any breach of the law, will be fully investigated. Those who are convicted can be dismissed under discipline code 16 of the police disciplinary regulations. The police also need to know that a discipline system pro-

tests them from those who make unfounded complaints, and allows the evidence to be properly tested.

Like all honest police officers, I support the fight against corruption; but it should be fought within the criminal system and not be allowed to become a catalyst in reducing the level of protection which the discipline of burden of proof gives police officers. There is only one way to deal with corrupt police officers: to investigate, arrest and place them before the courts.

Yours sincerely,
KEIR STEEL,
(Member, Metropolitan Police Joint Executive Committee),
Police Federation,
Harold Scott House,
1 Birchfield Street, E14,
June 11.

BBC World Service

From Mr Jeffrey Dudgeon

Sir, Listening to the BBC World Service on a recent visit to Moscow, and hearing the complaints of English speakers in that city concerning the dull and repetitive fare presently on offer, made me wonder just what John Tusa and other *nomenklatura* of the old Bush House regime were getting so exercised about (letter, June 13). Their view that "Radio 4 programmes sound parochial and irrelevant to the (world) audience" is indicative of their confused belief that audiences want something differently British or preferably not British at all.

BBC bosses presumably remain frightened of majoring on Britain for fear of being seen as chauvinist. In fact, I believe their audience is desperate to hear about what is going on here and that rebroadcasting Radio 4 would double audiences. The recent election was a case in point: Russians told me they would have appreciated the detail and drama of the moment-by-moment UK coverage and were instead provided with edited highlights.

Most foreign listeners to the English language World Service want to improve their English and learn about Britain, not to hear details about their own country which they read the day before in the local press.

Yours sincerely,
JEFFREY DUDGEON,
36 Mount Prospect Park, Belfast,
June 14.

Tory hobbits

From Ms Amanda Craig

Sir, Charming though his essay is on Mr Clarke and hobbitry (June 20), I must take issue with Philip Howard over his comments on Tolkien, and *Lord of the Rings*. There are those of us — yes, even literary critics — who not only admire this work but know it rather better than he appears to do.

It is simply not true that, with the exception of Galadriel, his female characters "stayed at home, cooking supper". Tolkien created two other memorable females: Eowyn, the warrior maiden who disguises herself as a

knight and, in an act of spectacular courage, kills the Chief Nazgul; and Shelob, the gigantic old spider who numbs her prey, then ties them up to drain at leisure.

It is all too easy to see who Shelob is — she appeared this week with a new morsel twitching in her web. The question is whether, in Mr Howard's fantasy, there will ever be an Eowyn in the Tory party. To judge by the number of women MPs on their side of the House, the chances are slim indeed.

Yours sincerely,
AMANDA CRAIG,
20 Falkland Road, NWS.

Use of English by Indian writers

From Mr R. K. D. Shah

Sir, Unlike all the other Indian writers in English mentioned in your leader today V. S. Naipaul, though undoubtedly of Indian origin, was not born in India. Indeed, apart from two or three of his celebrated works, most of his writing (fiction, travel, essays) is not even about India, though the Indian diaspora does feature in it.

It is not surprising therefore that he chose, as Salman Rushdie mentioned in *Start the Week* on BBC Radio 4 last Monday, to exclude himself from *The Vintage Book of Indian Writing, 1947-1997* just published, edited by Rushdie himself.

To the descendants of Indian emigrants to Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific regions, many of whom have since settled in the UK, America and Australasia, while India remains the ancestral homeland, their own alienation from it varies from one country or community to another in terms of time and space.

To those of us, like Naipaul, who are two or three generations removed from India, the links are increasingly more imagined than real. This is reflected in the language in which we think, write, speak and even dream. For most it is English but not, alas, of the same variety as the new "Indo-English" phenomenon that is reportedly gripping the American literary scene.

In this context, people of Indian descent in and from the countries of the now defunct British Empire are different from those who emanate directly from the sub-continent.

Yours truly,
RAMNIK SHAH,
Preventers & Co.,
Elm House, 115-115 London Road,
Mitcham, Surrey,
June 19.

From Dr Manjulika Bahl

Sir, Many more persons in India are fluent in English today than before independence and the explosion in the field of information technology is creating an increasing demand for them.

Not only is there a heavy rush for admissions to the expensive, English-medium private schools in the cities but during the course of our charity work in rural India my husband and I have had several requests, both from village elders and from young persons, to assist the children of the region to learn English.

Although political sentiments over the past fifty years have been responsible for relegating English to the background in the school curriculum, especially in northern India, people at the grass roots are becoming increasingly aware that in order to make headway in the job market at a national level a knowledge of English is becoming essential.

Yours sincerely,
M. BAHIL,
19 The Moorings,
St Johns Road, Eastbourne, Sussex,
June 20.

Oxbridge tourism

From Mr William Davies

Sir, I am amazed that the authorities at Sidney Sussex College did not congratulate their undergraduates, at least this once, for their spirited protest against the rising invasion of tourist buses (reports, June 17, 21).

We city residents along the bus route, endure grinding gears and blaring commentary all year round, while in summer weather first-floor living quarters are peered at from only a handshake away from the upper deck up to eight times an hour: multitudes can become something of a mutual spectator sport. The street noise is intolerable.

We are told that the whole operation confers local financial benefits, and no doubt even greater rewards to the streetwise bus operators. But surely this is one tourist intrusion which local authorities might reasonably have barred from these historic and fragile streets, which are already choked with too much noise and traffic?

Yours truly,
WILLIAM DAVIES,
115 King Street, Cambridge,
June 21.

Recipe for change

From Mr John Junkin

Sir, In today's letters, Mr Alfred Norris asks whether, now the renewal of his television licence is due, it would be cheaper for him to buy a cookery book.

It would, Sir; and it would expose one to an infinitely smaller number of recipes.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JUNKIN,
Juson's Glebe,
Wendover, Buckinghamshire,
June 18.

From Mr Ian Yates

Sir, The purchase of a cookery book would not, of itself, obviate Mr Norris's need to renew his television licence — unless he were to read it in a veterinary surgeon's waiting room or a hospital casualty department.

Yours faithfully,
I. YATES,
The Hollies,
York Road, Naburn, York,
June 19.

I remain, yours faithfully,
MALCOLM SARGENT.
12, Wetherby Place, S.W.7.

THE TIMES GREAT

SUMMER OF SPORT

LEADER ON THE TRACK

British captain's grand finale points the way to European Cup triumph
PAGE 35

THE LION KINGS

The pride of British rugby too strong for South Africa PAGES 28, 29

LORD'S OF THE RAINS

Australian storm and English showers in second Test
PAGE 30

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JUNE 23 1997

BRITISH PAIR SERVE UP PROSPECT OF WIMBLEDON SUCCESS



Courting success: Ruselski goes into Wimbledon in great form, while Henman, right, has been struggling

Dynamic duo breed great expectations

By JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

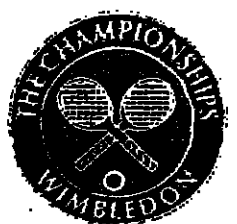
THE feeling that Britain might have something to celebrate at Wimbledon is perfectly choreographed by the order of play for the 11th championships, which open today. Tim Henman baptises the new No 1 Court in his match with Daniel Nestor, of Canada, while Greg Ruselski, formerly of Canada but now naturalised in Britain, has a Centre Court date with Mark Philippoussis, of Australia. Not for three generations have domestic players threatened to reclaim the foreign enclave of SW19.

Henman and Ruselski are more than show ponies casting shadows on the show courts. Their billing has been accorded on merit rather than the requirements of ceremony. After 12 months of high achievement, Henman has been seeded No 14, the first such accolade for a home-grown player for 15 years. Ruselski's combustible encounter with Philippoussis,

the No 7 seed and winner of the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club, brings together two mammoth servers whose present form is outstanding. Fresh from victory in the Nottingham Open on Saturday, Ruselski is forming a head of steam at just the right time.

Along with his service, Ruselski's confidence is booming. He is the man most players wanted to avoid in the early rounds and he advances on Wimbledon with the endorsement of Pete Sampras, three times a winner at the All England Club. Of their match in California four months ago — in which Ruselski led until injury forced his withdrawal — Sampras said: "He was playing top-ten tennis in the first set. He is always tough to play with his serve."

Ruselski, rated as a 50-1 chance by Ladbrokes, the bookmaker, has been irked by the attention accorded Hen-



man in the build-up to Wimbledon. While Henman, defeated early at Queen's, stumbled through to the semi-finals at Nottingham, Ruselski has lost one match in two weeks — and that only came after a compelling 20-18 tie-break against Goran Ivanisevic. "Maybe I'll get a headline now," Ruselski spat, after winning at Nottingham. "Even at Queen's it was 'What's wrong with Tim?' and not 'Ruselski's doing well'."

The only way to do something about it is to keep winning."

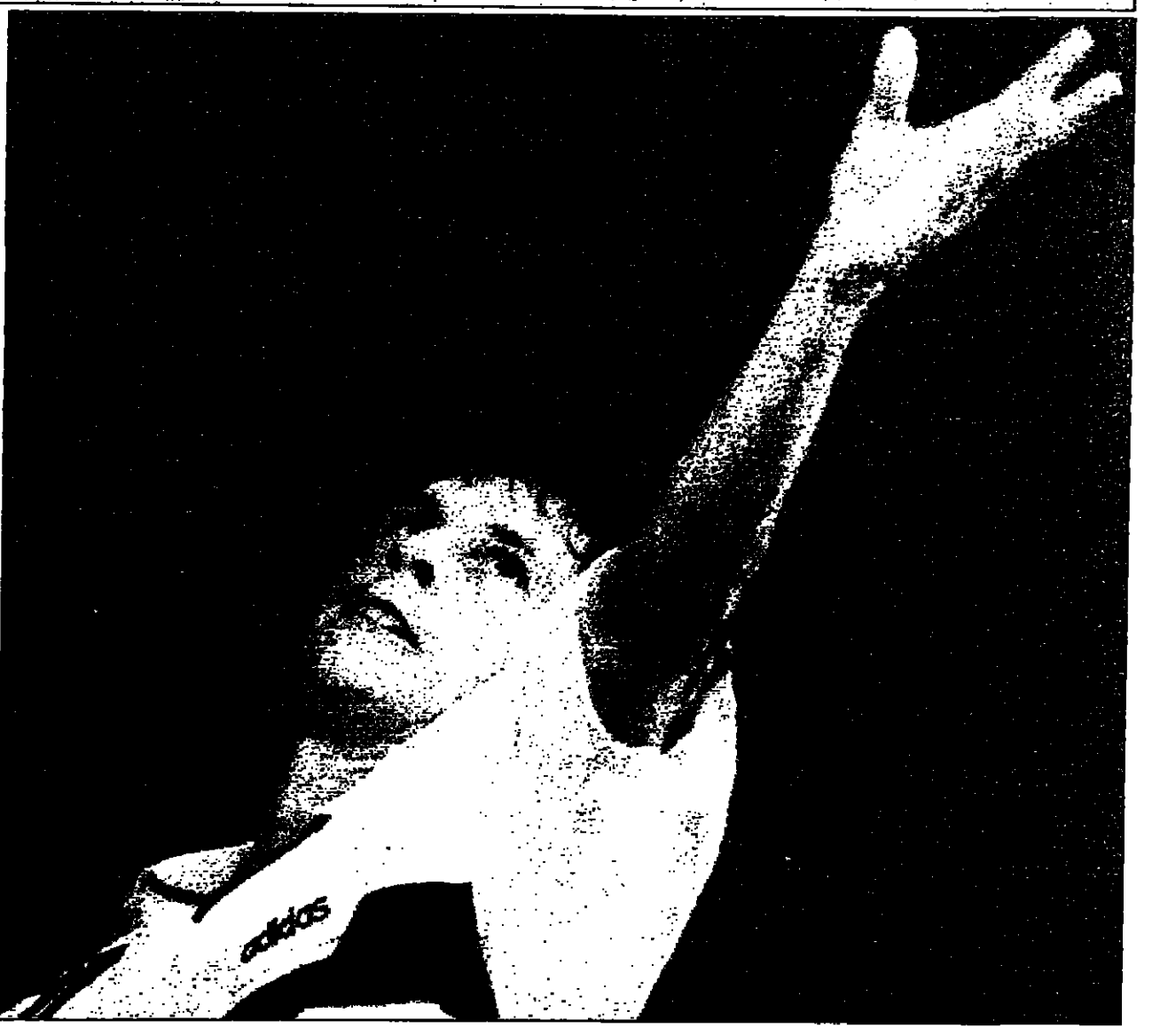
In his present mood, Ruselski has genuine prospects of causing an upset every bit as uplifting as Henman's opening-round defeat of the No 5 seed, Yevgeni Kafelnikov, 12 months ago. What would Henman give for a similar victory now?

To be seeded is encouraging, but the seed afflicting Henman's mind is sown of

doubt. Each player will pride himself on progressing beyond the other, but the draw has been far kinder to Henman. Should he reach the fourth round, he will approach his projected encounter with Richard Krajicek, the defending champion, with considerable optimism. Nothing less is expected of Henman than a safe passage to the last 16. His ticket has been endorsed by no less a judge than John McEnroe, who cites him as a potential winner.

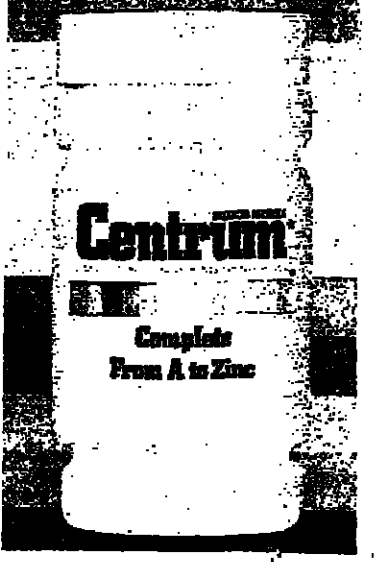
Henman's gains are largely attributable to Ruselski's adoption of these shores. Henman knows that a poor Wimbledon might allow Ruselski to overtake him in the world rankings. Henman admits that his rival's higher ranking spurred his improvement 12 months ago. He now has a similar incentive to make this a memorable fortnight for a nation too long starved of strawberries and cream.

Krajicek's case, 27
Today's order of play, 27



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Sky gets to grips with whole new ball game

"Sky can't do rugby," Joshua Ball said as we contemplated Saturday's enticing sports programme. "No Bill McLaren, no Nigel Starmer-Smith, no voice of rugby, no authority."

Such conservatism in one so young. There is, however, hope there for Miles Harrison, the Sky match commentator, — after all, Starmer-Smith was once seen as the lead weight round *Rugby Special's* neck. And, if rugby is to develop as a professional sport, Sky perhaps offers the right voice for the new era.

It could hardly have hoped for better than a dramatic British Isles win in the first international, and Matt Dawson's try, which will stick in the memory as one of the highlights of the year even for non-rugby fans. With such

material, even Channel 5 might have struggled to spoil the story, and Sky is far too professional to do that.

It approached it much as it does football — with enough players on view to run its own team — although, apparently, without the same spread of cameras. Instead of McLaren's boisterous enthusiasm, there was a combination of the demotic and the analytic.

At times, Stuart Barnes dipped into Ron Atkinson's book of sporting clichés. "It's all about commitment now for the Lions," he informed us at half-time, but at others he hit the button with perceptive comments.

"It's a very brave performance, but at some stage you've got to be brave with the ball in your hands," he ob-

PETER BALL TV ACTION REPLAY

served with just over ten minutes to go. Dawson might almost have heard him.

By then, any pretence at objectivity was long gone. "I can see we're going to fall off the fence," Harrison lamented as Barnes relished South African mishaps, and Dawson's run, and the resulting win, produced the inevitable triumphalism in the studio.

Dewi Morris was understandably chuffed, having predicted that Dawson would emerge as a star, and was led by David Babin into dispar-

ing remarks about Joost van der Westhuizen, who had been proclaimed as the best scrum half in the world beforehand. "You were saying 'Van der who?'" Babin prompted mischievously.

"I've played against him and he doesn't like it when you get in his face and he can't have his armchair ride," Morris said, sounding for all the world like an English pro of insular pre-Premier League days dismissing Netzer or Platini for lacking bottle. Fortunately, Dawson — as engag-

ing an interviewee as a player — Johnson and co gave no such hostages to fortune.

If the rugby was the event of the weekend, the most riveting viewing and the outstanding coverage was that other Test at Lord's. If (when?) the BBC loses Test matches, it would be time to storm the Grace Gates, because its coverage of cricket simply sets standards no other sport and no other broadcaster can match.

On Saturday, there were one or two technical glitches to prove they are human: the sight of Shane Warne opening the bowling, which must have had every cricket fan gasping open-mouthed, was not explained until the end of his over; the drop by Mark Waugh was analysed at length, but no one said whether Croft or Ealham was the

beneficiary; and one unheralded switch between BBC1 and BBC2 put Sue Barker on the back foot.

Those, however, were minor blemishes. With England bowled out for 77, and McGrath producing the best-ever figures for an Australia bowler at Lord's, they had a good tale, but from even before the start of play, as Geoffrey Boycott plunged his pen into a crack in the pitch, before condemning the wicket roundly, the analysis was sharp and the anecdotes were always illuminating.

With Boycott, the urbane Richie Benaud (surely sport's finest commentator) and Ian Chappell adding the Australian perspective, it is the one sport where watching on television is as good as — or better than — being there.

Maradona turns to disgraced Johnson

DIEGO MARADONA, the former Argentina football captain who has twice been suspended for drugs offences, has hired Ben Johnson, the disgraced Canadian sprinter as his personal trainer. "I want to be the best in the world again," Maradona said at York University, Toronto. "Ben's the fastest man in the world — a powerhouse, an animal."

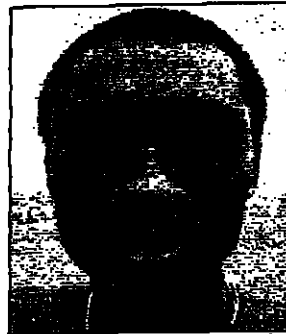
Johnson, 35, was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal in 1988 and suspended for two years for using anabolic steroids. He received a life ban after failing another drug test in 1993. Maradona, 36, was suspended for 15 months in 1991 after testing positive for cocaine use after an Italian league game and was thrown out of the 1994 World Cup for using banned stimulants. "We're just trying to do the things we do best," Johnson said.

All in a week's work

TRIATHLON: Tim Stuart, a GP at the Royal Surrey County hospital, won the national title at Ellesmere, Shropshire, yesterday (Ian Sweet writes). Stuart, 37, who went into the event after working a 56-hour week, triumphed over the Olympic distance, comprising a 1,500-metre swim, 40-kilometre cycle race and 20-kilometre run in 1hr 51min 10sec. "I stuck my head down and raced to the finish line and was delighted with this unexpected national title," Stuart said. While the men's competition produced an unexpected winner, the women's event was won by Stan Bryce, who had started as favourite and confirmed that position in 2hr 02min 51sec.

Akii-Bua dies at 49

ATHLETICS: John Akii-Bua, right, the former Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, has died in Kampala, Uganda at the age of 49. He won gold in the Munich Games in 1972, but had reportedly been ill for some time. Akii-Bua, one of 43 children, was one of the world's greatest hurdlers, but the African boycott of the 1976 Games dashed his hopes of defending his title.



Extebarria beats rain

CYCLING: David Extebarria, of Spain, won the sixth stage of the Tour of Switzerland, reduced to 147.5 kilometres between Biasca and Bosco Gurin because of wet, dangerous conditions. Extebarria won the Alpine stage by 11sec from Leonardo Piepoli, of Italy, with Francesco Casagrande, another Italian, third. Christophe Agnolotto, of France, retained the yellow jersey of the overall race leader.

Coles rolls back years

GOLF: Neil Coles became the oldest winner of a European Seniors Tour event yesterday when he completed a closing round of 69, three under par, for a record-equalling seven-shot victory in the Ryder Collingtree Seniors at Northampton. The 62-year-old led all three rounds, his eight under par total of 208 — a tournament record low — giving him his third Collingtree success in five years.

Gray sets Welsh record

ATHLETICS: Paul Gray ran a championship best as he won the 400 metres hurdles title at the Welsh championships at Cwmbran yesterday. The 1994 Commonwealth Games 110 metres hurdles bronze medal-winner recorded 50.18sec in finishing ahead of Mark Rowlands, who broke the Welsh under-20 record. Sean Pickering took the shot title with a championship best 19.15 metres.

Boardman holds lead

CYCLING: Chris Boardman, of Britain, right, retained the overall leader's yellow jersey after the fourth stage of the Tour of Catalonia yesterday. Jan Svorada, of the Czech Republic, won the 129.7-kilometre stage from Sant Joan d'Espí to Barcelona. In a sprint finish, Svorada edged out Federico Colonna, of Italy, and Frederic Moncassin, of France.



Brewer takes IBF title

BOXING: Charles Brewer, of the United States, stopped Gary Ballard, of South Africa, in the fifth round in Tampa, Florida on Saturday to claim the vacant International Boxing Federation super-middleweight title. Brewer, 27, who has won 20 bouts inside the distance in a 29-5 record, knocked Brewer down with a barrage of blows in the fifth round and Max Parker, the referee, stopped the fight.

Lynn breaks through

GOLF: David Lynn shot a closing 69 to win the Team Erhverv Danish Open at the Simons club near Helsingør yesterday. It left Lynn with a 14-under-par total of 274, three strokes clear of Robert Jan Dersken, of Holland, who finished with a round of 70. It was Lynn's first European Challenge Tour victory and the winner's cheque of almost £13,000 lifts him from No 22 to No 4 in the rankings.

GOLF Garrido strides towards place in Ryder Cup

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN STUTTGART

IF THE most difficult stroke in golf is the long bunker shot, then it is only marginally less difficult to take a large lead into the last round of a tournament and hold on to it. Arnold Palmer once led a major championship by six strokes with nine holes remaining and still lost.

Ignacio Garrido, 25, from Spain, led the Volvo German Open at the Schloss Nippenburg course near Stuttgart by five strokes after 54 holes and thus the first prize of £16,000 was not so much anybody else's to win as his to lose in the final round. Despite a changing cast of challengers and a testing wind, Garrido saw them all off to win his first tournament on the European tour. His last round of 72 gave him a 72-hole total of 271, 13 under par, and victory by four strokes from Russell Claydon and five from Mark James.

There was a lot of rain in this part of Germany last week and the start of the fourth round was delayed for half an hour. When play did get under way, players went off in threes instead of pairs and when the sun came out at lunchtime, it did so over a sea of mud. It was as essential for spectators to keep their footing as it was for Garrido to keep his head.

He began steadily, though he drove into the rough and dropped one stroke on the 7th, the shortest par four on the course. Another went on the 9th after a rather nervous and jerky chip-and-run from the edge of the green, when Brian Davis, a 22-year-old graduate of last year's European tour school, who had been second overnight with James, five strokes behind, held a good put for a four. This put him

three strokes behind Garrido and could have signalled the start of a collapse by the Spaniard.

However, after seeing first Davis hit his tee shot into fluffy grass at the back of the 10th green and then James's tee shot catch a bank above a bunker in front of the green and roll backwards, Garrido hit a nerveless stroke to nine feet to guarantee his par. Garrido's lead was reduced to two strokes after the 12th, where Davis hit a beautiful iron to four feet, but then

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

271: I Garrido (Sp) 65, 67, 67, 72 275: R Claydon 68, 69, 72, 66 278: M James 68, 67, 69, 72 277: R Green (Aus) 71, 66, 71, 69, B Langer (Ger) 70, 69, 69, 69, E Romero (Arg) 67, 67, 73, 70, P Haugrud (Nor) 70, 66, 68, 71, B Doss 69, 70, 66, 73 276: A Coles (Ger) 66, 76, 69, 65, 276: T Torrance 70, 68, 70, 70, B Lane 68, 70, 68, 72 275: M Anglin (Swe) 70, 70, 71, 68, 280: R Kalfoun (Swe) 69, 67, 70, 72, J Woosnam 71, 69, 68, 72 281: J Payne 68, 71, 75, 69, D Hoogstraal (Sp) 70, 71, 69, 71, 282: G Turner (NZ) 70, 72, 70, 70, J Skold (Swe) 68, 71, 74, 69, P Price 71, 70, 69, 72 283: M Weir (Can) 65, 75, 72, 71, M Medland 72, 67, 72, 72, D Chopra (Swe) 71, 72, 68, 72, V Phillips 65, 70, 74, 74, B May (US) 67, 70, 72, 74 284: R McFarlane 71, 71, 71, 71, H Huth (Ger) 70, 74, 70, D Cooper 72, 68, 68, 75, R Bocal 71, 72, 72, 69

Davis dropped two strokes on the 14th and fell back to eight under par.

Meanwhile, Garrido was playing sensibly and calmly. When he is on a golf course, there is none of the volatility that those from the Iberian peninsula are supposed to demonstrate during moments of stress. Instead, he looks thoughtful and composed. He was not disorientated when a new challenger emerged in the substantial shape of Claydon.

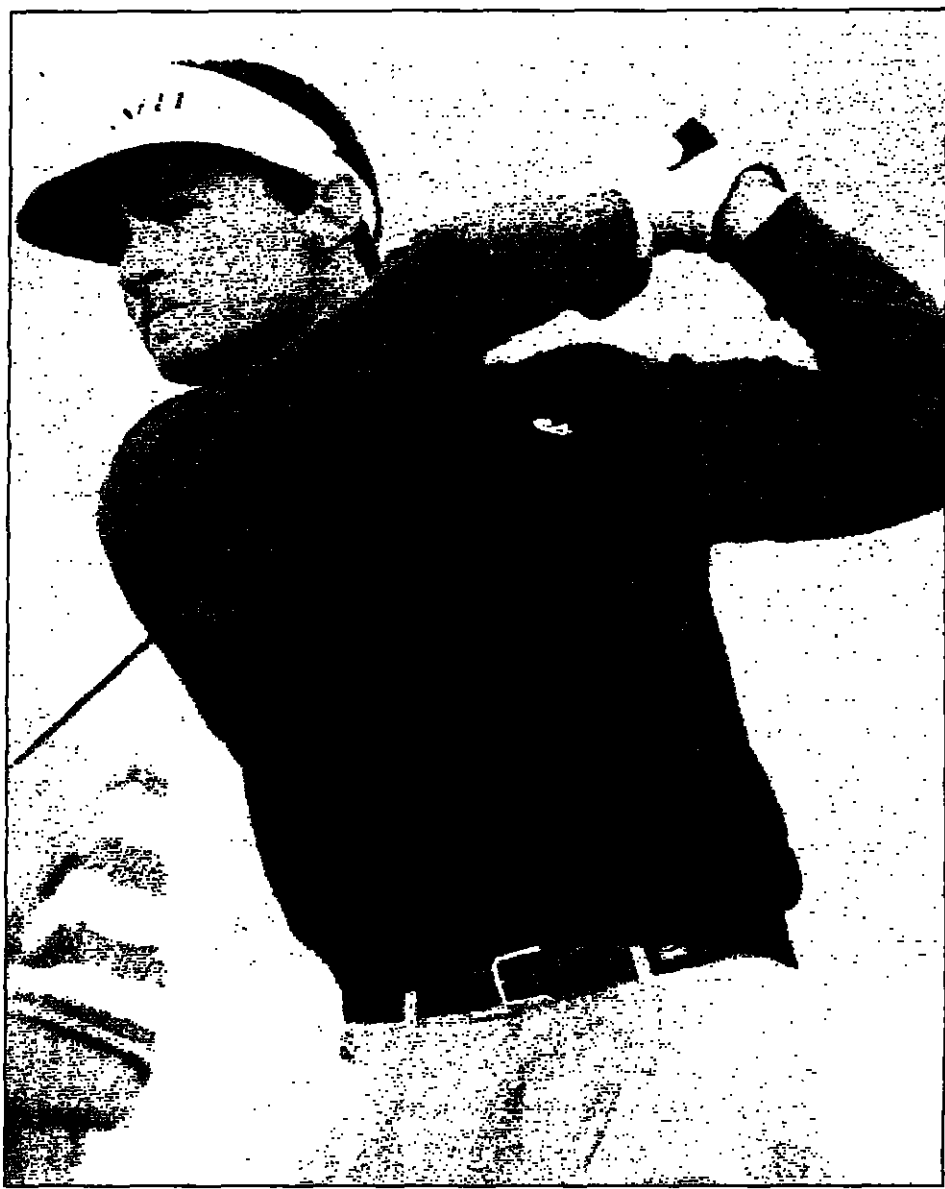
On his way to a round of 66,

five under par and the lowest of the day, Claydon birdied the 14th by hitting an eight-iron to four feet from the hole. That put him ten under par and two strokes behind Garrido. Yet, as Davis's effort on the 12th was wasted on the 14th, so Claydon's birdie on the 16th was squandered on the 17th, when he dropped a stroke.

Garrido has good bloodlines. German, an uncle, helps him with his swing. Antonio, his father, played in the 1979 Ryder Cup team, the first that was open to golfers from mainland Europe. If, after this win, Ignacio gets a place in the Ryder Cup at Valderrama, the Garridos will be the second father and son combination from this side of the Atlantic to compete in the footsteps of Percy and Peter Alliss. Garrido is now thirteenth in the Ryder Cup points table.

The full effect of Garrido's victory took some time to sink in. Likewise, his mind was far from thinking of the Ryder Cup. "It was a difficult day today because it was quite windy and obviously I was under pressure, especially on the back nine," he said. "I knew that what I needed to do was to keep on making pars and to let other people make the mistakes as they tried to catch me."

Sam Torrance's total of six under par helped him in his quest for a ninth Ryder Cup appearance and James's third place did him no harm either. One year, it will be possible to say once and for all there is no chance of either of them representing Europe, but it is not so at present. Torrance lies twelfth in the rankings and James sixteenth. Do not count them out.



Garrido has his sights set on his first European tour victory in Stuttgart yesterday

Els on course for win double

ERNIE ELS, the US Open champion, closed in on a second successive victory by establishing a commanding three-stroke lead after the third round of the Buick Classic in Harrison, New York. Els, of South Africa, recorded a 67, four under par, and his score of 199 came within one stroke of the 54-hole tournament record that he set last year.

Jeff Maggert, of the United States, who had a 66, was in second place with Jim Furyk, his compatriot, five shots further back after a 69. Els, 27, is

the holder of the Buick Classic title and, if he wins again, he will become the first man to win the US Open and the Buick Classic back-to-back since Hale Irwin in 1990.

Els threatened to run away from the field before stumbling with bogeys at the 13th and 16th holes. He had six birdies over the first 12 holes to open up an eight-shot lead. "I made two bogeys, but 67 is not a bad round of golf," he said. "There are a couple of guys in the tournament still, so I've got to play well. It will be tough. After making three

birdies things were going my way. It's just a matter of getting focused again."

Maggert, who chased Els for much of the final round in the US Open, finished strongly with three birdies over the final five holes. "Anytime you play well, you can overcome disappointments," he said. "It's nice to finish the round off the way I did. I made a little run at Ernie. I'm playing well. Ernie's playing well. It will be a good battle." Tiger Woods had a 71, level par, after successive 72s and was 16 strokes back on 215.

Japanese eagle rewarded by French chapeau

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN EVIAN, FRANCE

AN AMBITIOUS young Japanese arrived in the United States a few years ago armed with a determination to test her golfing ability against the best but with only a few words of English. "My name is Hiromi Kobayashi. How are you?" Last Saturday, after winning the fourth Evian Masters at the Royal Club here with a dramatic eagle three at the first hole of a play-off, Kobayashi started working on her French. "Bonjour. Merci," she said, clutching a cheque for £63,750, a trophy and a hat every bit as eccentric as anything Gertrude Shil-

ling ever sported. The hat, designed by a Paris milliner with a flair for the bizarre, is an Evian tradition, a not too serious answer to the green jacket.

Now 34, secure in her membership of the LPGA Tour and her mastery of the English language, the personable Kobayashi became the first Japanese to win on the European tour since Ayako Okamoto took the German Open in 1990.

Kobayashi's victory was at the expense of the dogged Englishwoman, Alison Nicholas, who had the edge for most of the final round but came unstuck at the 18th, a par five of 465 yards. Nicholas, incorporating some swing changes into her game,

had coped superbly but she drove into trees at the last and could not reach the green in two.

Kobayashi not only could but did — with a superb three-wood from 223 yards — and her birdie four tied Nicholas on 274, 14 under par. A few

Final scores 39

minutes later, Kobayashi did the same again — this time the three-wood was 221 yards — and with Nicholas struggling after another drive out of position, the Japanese holed a fast, treacherous putt of 30 feet, to finish in the grand manner.

Refreshingly scrutable, she jumped up and down with delight, celebrating her first win for two years.

Nicholas, who defends her Guardian Irish Open title at Luttrellstown Castle, Dublin, this week, was disappointed but pleased with the way her game is progressing. As a board member of the American Express tour she will appreciate the business possibilities of the result, with Evian open to an influx of yen next season.

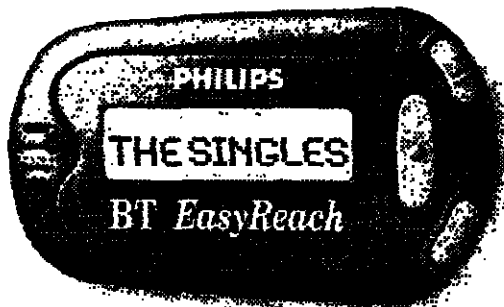
Annika Sorenstam, the world No 1, returned to something more like her usual form with four birdies in her first 11 holes but Charlotta, her younger sister, finished even better. She tied for fifth on 283 and won a

Renault Twingo for a hole in one at the 17th.

However, the plum prizes were reserved for two English football fanatics. Trish Johnson was given a ticket for one of the World Cup semi-finals next year and Laura Davies will have a seat at the final. "It's better than winning the tournament," Davies said. She won at Evian last year but took some flak for having a television set in her bag during the final round, to watch England in the European championship.

She will have no such split loyalties next year, for the tournament will be moved to the beginning of the month, in deference to the World Cup finals.

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TENNIS

Young pretenders seek place among game's immortals

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS truly a mix of the old and the new. As a host of former champions gather today to commemorate the opening of the All England Club's new show court, a plethora of new faces attempt to impose themselves on the ageing lawns of Wimbledon.

If new champions are indeed crowned, it is unlikely that they will emulate the achievements of Laver and McEnroe, of Evert and Navratilova. These living reminders of Wimbledon's rich history are to participate in the No 1 Court opening ceremony, to be conducted today by the Duke of Kent, the club's president, at 1.30pm. Elsewhere, a hungry young breed will be pacing the grounds, eager to extend the uprising initiated by Carlos Moya, an unseeded finalist in Melbourne: Gustavo Kuerten, the Brazilian hero of Paris; and Iva Majoli, surprise conqueror of Martina Hingis at the French Open.

To their credit, Moya and Kuerten are down at SW19, where seven of their contemporaries in the world top 20 are not. We have witnessed the familiar sick notes dispatched on behalf of clay-court specialists, not to mention the non-entry of others. Whatever their ailments, we can accurately surmise that their absence indicates their inability to win the world's most coveted championships. Wimbledon is none the poorer for that.

It is, in fact, all the richer for the return to form of Richard Krajicek, the defending champion. Krajicek, seeded No 4, yesterday completed his rout of the opposition on the grass

of his native Rosmalen without once dropping his service. "This week has been excellent preparation and I am full of confidence," Krajicek, who later travelled to London by helicopter, said. "From now on, all I'm thinking about is Wimbledon." The victory will upgrade his world ranking one place, to No 5, in advance of his opening match with Marcello Craca, of Germany, on Centre Court today. It will also register forcefully with Pete Sampras, blown away by Krajicek in the quarter-finals 12 months ago. Boris Becker will not be surprised: he has nominated Krajicek as the man to beat again this year.



Sampras, the No 1 seed, and Becker, seeded eight, are inactive today. Both are seeking their fourth Wimbledon titles. Fronting the assault of youth is Mark Philippoussis, 21, who battered Goran Ivanisevic into submission at Queen's eight days ago. But the Australian, the fastest server in the world, faces a tough encounter with Britain's Greg Rusedski on Centre Court's lush surface. Spectators with a penchant for rallies would do well to take tea at this point. Alternatively, they might turn their attention to

the match involving two unseeded warriors in Jim Courier and Michael Stich on No 1 Court. This is the last Wimbledon for Stich, the winner six years ago.

With Steffi Graf, the defending champion, lamentably absent with an injured knee, there will almost certainly be a first-time winner in the ladies' championship. Martina Hingis, of Switzerland, justifiably heads the seedings; this year she has won all matches except for an unexpected defeat by Majoli in Paris. However, Hingis must fend off some strong hitters in her section of the draw — most notably Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, the fastest server on the women's Tour.

Schultz-McCarthy, projected to meet Hingis in the last 16, spoke optimistically yesterday. "Steffi's absence has left the rest of us with great hope," she said. "I can give everybody a lot of trouble. Somebody like Monica Seles, for instance, doesn't like playing me because she can be inconsistent with her returning." Seles, seeded No 2, will not need reminding how Schultz-McCarthy outlived her at Eastbourne last week.

Schultz-McCarthy also cast doubt over the soundness of the knee that Hingis injured in a riding accident earlier this year. "I'm sure the injury is the main reason she [Hingis] didn't come to Eastbourne for grass-court experience," she suggested.

Pat Cash, a former men's champion, put a leg injury behind him to reach the main draw from a qualifying competition heavily disrupted by rain. Cash, 32, defeated Oren Motevassel, of Israel, in three sets to secure a first-round match with Byron Black, of Zimbabwe. His incentive is a possible clash with Pete Sampras in the third round.

Qualifiers or lucky losers make up the opposition for four of Britain's eight wild card entrants — among them Andrew Richardson — into the main draw. The lanky Richardson, in action on Court 4 today, has advanced more than 600 places in the rankings in four years. "A lot of people think because I am 6ft 7in and have a good serve, that grass should be my favourite surface," he said. "I think that's wrong. The rest of my game isn't too bad either."

Richardson will be hoping to recapture the form that saw off Black on his Davis Cup debut against Zimbabwe two months ago.

Of the remaining wild card quartet, Chris Wilkinson, from London, faces the most daunting assignment. Wilkinson originally relished the prospect of playing the No 4 seed, Thomas Muster, but the latter's withdrawal means he is now matched with Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden. The No 17 seed, Bjorkman reached the semi-finals at Queen's before losing out in three sets to Philippoussis.

Krajicek makes strong case for defence

David Powell talks to the Wimbledon champion who plans to make a lasting impression this year

If Richard Krajicek had been superstitious, he would probably have been tearing his neatly brushed hair out. He was winning matches on grass, feeling great, smiling, joking, eager for Wimbledon. The auguries did not look good.

Krajicek had returned to the tournament where, one year earlier, he had sought to hone his game for Wimbledon. These were the championships of Rosmalen, Holland, his home country, and he was thinking back to last summer. It sends a shiver down his spine when he recalls how, in 1996, as he packed his rackets and walked away from a quarter-final defeat in Rosmalen, he considered pulling out of Wimbledon.

"I did not think I was going to play Wimbledon," Krajicek said, between rounds in Rosmalen last week. "I was down with the way I was playing on grass. I was thoroughly annoyed and irritated with myself and I thought: 'Well, if I am annoyed, I am apparently not enjoying it. Why play on grass at all?' There was a day and a half when I was in doubt."

"When I think back, I go: 'Oh God, imagine if I had made the decision the other way.' I felt terrible coming into Wimbledon. This year I feel a lot better. I do not know whether that is a good or a bad sign. You cannot say what it means for Wimbledon."

We can say, though, that Krajicek has a solid chance of repeating the victory of 12 months ago that gave Wimbledon an unseeded men's champion, the first Dutchman to win a grand-slam singles title. He is the No 4 seed now, with the confidence to analyse why his first-round opponent should not beat him, but without the arrogance to suggest that he has no chance.

Marcello Craca is unknown to Wimbledon and, apparently, unlikely to stay long enough for spectators to get to know him better. "It is his first grand slam, he has never played on grass, and is a baseliner," Krajicek said, helpfully. "So an easy win for you? Yes... if you hear all these things, it should be easy but he is an opponent and will want to beat me."

Try to picture Krajicek in your mind and, if you succeed, you are one of the few. Though he won Wimbledon, Krajicek is probably still less readily recognised than his girlfriend, Daphne Deckers, whose facial contortions were as much a part of last year's televised coverage as the champion's thundering service and potent return.

Two short matches, won in straight sets, after the tournament finally sat up and took notice of him, did not allow time enough for people to familiarise themselves with a player who offered nothing in the way of dress or



Krajicek in his moment of triumph, winning the Wimbledon title last year

personality to mark him out.

A player eliminated in the first round during the two previous Wimbledon, who had never reached a grand-slam singles final, was of peripheral interest until he stopped Pete Sampras, the world No 1, in his tracks. Sampras had been on course for a fourth successive Wim-

bledon singles title. Who was this Dutchman?

Krajicek, we learnt, was the product of an obsessive parent, driven from a young age by his father through a hard training regime that sometimes had him in tears. When his parents divorced, Krajicek temporarily cut contact with his father.

The tormented boy is now

the relaxed and cheerful adult. In Rosmalen, he signed autographs freely, gave a children's tennis clinic, and was as obliging to reporters as any Wimbledon champion can have been.

He gave group interviews, personal interviews, telephone interviews to journalists with whom he had not spoken before. "I have never seen a player as good as him with the press," Corinne Millard, the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) communications manager, said. Largely because Krajicek has had a knee and a weight from his mind.

Not long after Wimbledon last year, Krajicek returned to his pre-championships luxurious life. After a fortnight's holiday, he went back to tournament play and, with the heart missing from his game, performed poorly. "I had a problem readjusting after success, finding new goals," he said.

"His nadir was the US



The new men's singles champion poses with his trophy

Open where, like Stefan Edberg, Pat Cash and John Newcombe before him, he lost in the first round after winning Wimbledon. "It was all mental," Krajicek reflected. "I just could not get up to play. After that, I did not do anything for three weeks. I did not see many people. I was alone almost, at home in Monaco."

Upon his return, he had such trouble with his right knee that surgery became a necessity. Although he reached the ATP semi-finals, he lost to MaliVai Washington, whom he had beaten in the Wimbledon final in the first round of the Grand Slam Cup and pulled out of two tournaments. "I had nine weeks off and, after that, a fresh start. I needed six months to get all the emotions out."

"The operation was the climax to finish that period. I realised there were lots of goals. I have not won No 1 yet and there are so many grand slams to win, but you have to feel it in your heart." There lies the crux, according to Bertold Palthe, a Dutch tennis magazine journalist, who is a member of Krajicek's social circle.

Krajicek has recently bought a vicarage-style house in Muiderberg, a small village close to Amsterdam, where Palthe lives. "With Richard, it has to come from the heart, not the head,"

'Try to picture Krajicek in your mind and, if you succeed, you are one of the few'

Palthe said. "What enabled him to win last year was first the heart, second his backhand return. That is why he won, because the heart was there, the brain was there, everything was there."

Paul Haarhuis defeated Krajicek in Rosmalen last year but lost to him last week as the Wimbledon champion underlined his form, defeating Michael Chang in his semi-final and Guillaume Raoux, of France, 6-4, 7-6 in the final yesterday afternoon. "He is serving great, not giving anybody a chance, and returning better than he was last year a week before Wimbledon," Haarhuis said. "He is volleying well, so I think his game is in order."

Krajicek's girlfriend was watching, the one said to look like Meg Ryan, with a hint of Madonna, the Stefford woman, seen and not heard. Last year was her triumph as much as his. And, though not as a result of her Wimbledon profile, she has landed a part in the latest Bond movie, "Tomorrow Never Dies, I think," Krajicek said, hesitating.

"She has a decent part, the fourth female part. She works for the villain, a PR woman, because the villain is a media guy. Is she coming to Wimbledon? I think it is a bigger worry for TV whether she is coming than whether I am coming, so they can relax, she is coming." Given Krajicek's present form and attitude, she could be there the full fortnight.

Novotna calls halt to slippery final act

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

AFTER a week of rain, rain and then more rain, there was an air of creeping inevitability about the conclusion of the Direct Line International at Eastbourne yesterday. Try as they might, the organisers, players and spectators could not defy the best — or rather worst — that the British weather could throw at them and the tournament ended in stalemate, with the final abandoned before a set could be completed.

Jana Novotna and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario were heading towards a first-set tie-break when the final was halted after 46 fragmented minutes with the score at 6-5 to the Czech. No matter that she was leading, Novotna's patience with the conditions snapped and she stalked off to the locker-room complaining about the slippery court and gathering storm-clouds, ignoring a slow hand-clap from the 100 spectators and Sánchez Vicario's willingness to carry on.

Indeed, given the chance, the Spaniard would probably have played on through a blizzard, for, had she won, she would have passed the \$12 million mark in career earnings. Sharing the £48,000 first prize left her fractionally short, but if she beats Clare Wood, the Brighton-based Briton, in the first round at Wimbledon tomorrow, the delay will be minimal.

Novotna was unrepentant afterwards: "It was too slippery to play on and I felt they could have taken a decision to call it off a few hours earlier. The last thing you want to do is take a risk of injury just before Wimbledon. I'm glad to have got to the final, but it has been so wet and windy all week that you couldn't possibly play real tennis."

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Rusedski grows in stature

By RICHARD HOBSON

did not drop a set in any of his five matches; indeed, he conceded just ten points on his own service in 11 games against Kucera.

It is with every justification, then, that he says he enters Wimbledon close to the form that took him to the final of the San Jose Open in February. Over the last week he has become increasingly sanguine in discussing his first-round tie against Mark Philippoussis, the No 7 seed and one of the few players in the world with a service as fierce as his own.

"I said originally that, if I had to play him, I would rather it was in the first round when the grass is lush because

in those conditions you have to do more than just hit the ball hard. Since then, the extra rain will have made the courts even lusier," Rusedski said. "There is still room for improvement on my returns and ground strokes but I have grown in confidence through the week in Nottingham."

Asked about the wider prospects for Tim Henman and himself, Rusedski said: "It is a lot to ask for this year. Either of us could win, but I say that with the next three or four years in mind because we are both improving." He believes that Sampras, Becker or Ivanisevic will win.

Kucera, a Slovakian, with a world ranking of 64, removed the possibility of the first all-British men's final in the open era by beating Henman, the fourth seed, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in the semi-final. Henman, desperate for match practice, was taken to a third set in each of his four matches. "I feel as good going into Wimbledon now as I did last year," he said.

Having played both the top two British players indoors on Saturday, Kucera was asked which he would rather face on grass. Perversely, it seemed, he plumped for Rusedski because his service was easier to return. Evidence of the last week suggests he was confusing the two.



Rusedski confident

ORDER OF PLAY TODAY

Seeded players in capitals
2.15pm start on Centre Court and No 1 Court, noon on others

CENTRE COURT: M Craca (Ger) v R KRAJICEK (Hol); M PHILIPPOUSSIS (Aus) v G Rusedski (GB); Miss C Richardson (US) v Miss A Kournikova (Russ).

No 1 COURT: T HENMAN (GB) v D Nestor (Can); M Stich (Ger) v J Courier (US); Miss R McQuillan (Aus) v Miss M Seles (US).

No 2 COURT: D Pescarolo (Rom) v G IVANISEVIC (Cro); Miss I MAJOLI (Cro) v Miss M Diaz Oliva (Arg); Miss A COETZER (SA) v Miss A Fusi (Fr); Y KAFELNIKOV (Russ) v J Manin (Sp).

No 3 COURT: S Ryan (US) v C Moya (Sp); J Gimelstob (US) v G KUERTEN (Br); Miss N Savranats (Japan) v Miss S Smith (GB); Miss V Williams (US) v Miss M Grzybowski (Pol).

No 4 COURT: A Richardson (GB) v S Duran (Sp); J Tarango (US) v R Gilbert (Fr); Miss S Cacic (US) v Miss A Frazier (US); Miss J Wiesner (Austria) v Miss J Kander (Ger).

No 5 COURT: Miss M Melavea (Bul) v Miss J Pullin (GB); J Delgado (GB) v J Gilmard (Fr); M Marques (Por) v M Lee (GB); Miss S Appelmann (Bel) v Miss R Simpson (Can).

No 6 COURT: A Pavel (Rom) v F Dewulf (Bel); Miss K PO (US) v Miss K Guse (Aus); Miss F Luchiani (It) v Miss S Pitkowski (Fr); N Kuti (Swe) v M Sinner (Ger).

No 7 COURT: Miss M Endo (Japan) v Miss G Leon Garcia (Sp); A Clement (Fr) v L Milligan (GB); M Charpentier (Arg) v C Pionne (Fr); Miss A Grossman (US) v Miss K Brand (US).

No 8 COURT: J Frana (Arg) v M Damm (Cz); N Lapentti (Ec) v F Clavet (Sp); Miss M Tu (US) v Miss I Gorrochategui (Arg); Miss B Schett (Austria) v Miss A Carlsson (Swe).

No 9 COURT: J Viloca (Sp) v M

Göller (Ger); Miss A Sugiyama (Japan) v Miss Y Basuki (Indo); Miss J Watanabe (US) v Miss M Serna (Sp).

No 10 COURT: B Ellwood (Aus) and P Tarraschi (Aus) v B Behner (US) and C Hoggard (SA); K Arzi (Mor) v R Henberg (US); K Carlsen (Den) v E Alvarez (US); Miss F Peretti (It) v Mrs M Sánchez Lorenzo (US).

No 11 COURT: D Diliacqua (Fr) and R Smith (Bab) v R Leveigne (Fr) and S Simian (Fr); Miss E Makarova (Russ) v Miss T Parova (Russ); S Stolle (Aus) v C Woodruff (US); Miss E Martincova (Cz) v Miss L Raymond (US).

No 12 COURT: Miss C Tarraschi (Valero) (Sp) v Miss G Pizzichini (It); F Fetterlein (Den) v J Novak (Cz); Miss N Dady (Fr) v Miss L Courtois (Bel); Miss L Richterova (Cz) v Miss T Tansugam (Thai).

No 13 COURT: Mrs T Jones (US) v Miss L DAVENPORT (US); J Bjorkman (Swe) v C Wilkinson (GB); Miss K Boogert (Hol) v Miss B PAULUS (Austria); M Woodforde (Aus) v L Pees (Indo).

No 14 COURT: L Roux (Fr) v B Stevan (NZ); Miss M Manuska (Austria) v Miss A Gersi (Cz); S Huet (Fr) v J Stark (US); Miss J Kruger (SA) v Miss S de Ville (Bel).

No 15 COURT: Miss D Chladkova (Cz) v Miss S Kleinova (Cz); D Rik (Cz) v D Vasek (Cz); Miss M Saeid (Japan) v Mrs P Hy-Boulas (Can); M Tebbutt (Aus) v J Sánchez (Sp).

No 16 COURT: Miss H Nagyova (Slovakia) v Miss I SPIRLEA (Rom); W FERREIRA (SA) v S Draper (Aus); Miss L Woodroffe (GB) v Miss P Schnyder (Switz); O Burlesza (Sp) v J Stoltenberg (Aus).

No 17 COURT: D Norman (Bel) and K Thome (US) v R Koenig (Bel) and Rusb (US); M Norman (Swe) v L Herrera (Mex); Miss E Collins (Bel) v Miss P Suarez (Arg); Miss A Olza (Pol) v Miss L Narnackova (Cz).

No 18 COURT: J Viloca (Sp) v M

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Immediate action called for by country that cannot accept being second best

Colour fades from Rainbow Nation

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DURBAN

NOWHERE in the world of rugby union does a nation react more vividly to international defeat than in South Africa. Thus, yesterday, the banner headlines on the front pages of the two main Sunday papers, based, respectively, in Johannesburg and Cape Town, read: "Boks: What Went Wrong?" and "Boks Blow It", after the British Isles had won at Newlands.

Nor was their any shortage of observers to point out that never, in South Africa's history, has a team lost the opening match of a home series and recovered to win. Before the Lions' 25-16 success, most pundits had tipped South Africa with confidence, while conceding that the Lions had played an entertaining brand of rugby, fit to lay before a crowd overdoing on the fun and fury of the Super 12 tournament.

Now, there will be further questions regarding the appointment as coach of the inexperienced Carel du Plessis and the form of several players whose skill has been vital to South Africa over the past three years. Joost van der Westhuizen, James Small, André Joubert, Mark Andrews, even the massive Os du Randt, will all be scrutinised by the public before South Africa announce their party this evening for the international in Durban this Saturday.

"There is a lot of hysteria when South Africa lose a test match," Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, said before his team moved to Durban. Nobody knows better than Cotton the tortured path that South African selection can take, since he played in the 1974 series for the Lions when the Springboks capped 32 players in four internationals, including Gerrie Sonnekus, a No 8, at scrum half.

Du Plessis, after only two internationals in charge, will not seek change on so grand a scale, but change there will be: Edrich Lubbe, the Griqualand West centre, has a damaged hamstring, Japie Mulder, his partner, damaged a shoulder in a mighty collision with Lawrence Dallaglio, while Naka Drotske and Henry Honiball are suffering from neck injuries.

"It is a disappointing start to the series, but I believe the right combinations are still in place and I am confident in the ability of this team," Du Plessis said.

It is not a confidence shared elsewhere. Dan Retief, the rugby



South African rugby was turned upside down at Newlands — Gibbs doing just that to Snyman. Photograph: Alex Livesey/Allsport

correspondent for the *Sunday Times* here, queried the backline display and criticised the lack of authority from such players as Van der Westhuizen and Mark Andrews. Clinton van der Berg, in the Johannesburg-based *Independent on Sunday*, wrote of a "poverty of imagination and initiative."

Even harsher words came from Gavin Rich in the *Sunday Argos*. "The tactical naivety and complete non-adherence to the basics of the game are sure to pose question marks over his future," Rich wrote of Du Plessis, while calling for the return of Hennie le Roux, the

Gauteng centre who played in the World Cup two years ago.

All of which will be meat and drink to Cotton and the Lions. Apart from a precious victory, they left Newlands with only soft tissue injuries to Gregor Townsend (ribs), Keith Wood (ankle) and Tom Smith (dead leg), all of which will take no more than two days of recovery. To aid the process, the Lions will send only a match squad of 21 on a day trip to Bloemfontein tomorrow for the evening game with the Free State.

"It was a strange night after the test," Cotton said. "Everyone was

emotionally drained, but we know we will have to raise our sights and our game again. Still, 12 months ago, certain people were denigrating Lions rugby, suggesting it had no place in the modern era. As far as I am concerned, it is one of the great unifying areas of the game for British and Irish rugby."

"Commercially, it is a fantastic success, and that test was played in a wonderful atmosphere. It was just a great sporting occasion. We ought to be savouring this, not trying to get rid of it. I couldn't believe the amount of red shirts in the crowd."

Indeed, some 4,000 Britons are estimated to have made the trip, and at times their cheering drowned the home support.

The Lions were also happier with the refereeing of Colin Hawke, the New Zealander who at least allowed second phase to develop and who awarded 11 penalties against South Africa and only nine for them, symptomatic of the pressure that the Lions created. In Durban, Didier Méné, from France, will handle the international, with the final match, in Johannesburg on July 5, going to Wayne Eriksson, of Australia.

Odd couple on top when push comes to shove

Mark Souster reports that a front-row gamble came off splendidly for the Lions on Saturday

The first two scrums of the first international broke up with the British Isles front row in disarray and penalised. The worst fears of many observers seemed about to be realised. Graham Price, for one, winced. "I thought 'They [South Africa] are going to demolish us,'" the former Wales international and Lions prop said.

Before the game at Newlands, the inclusion of Paul Wallace and, to a lesser extent, Tom Smith, both relative rookies, puzzled some and worried others. The general opinion was that it was a gamble that could backfire. Price was not alone in thinking that Os du Randt, South Africa's 20 stone, 6ft 3in behemoth, could have a field day.

Then Price, a veteran of 12 Lions internationals, recalled his own experience in 1980, when he was pitted against Flipie van der Merwe, the heaviest player ever to represent the Springboks.

"He was at least seven stone heavier than me and Danie Craven's blue-eyed boy. But, by going in low, you could disrupt him. South African props are big and strong but they lack a bit of technique," Price said.

Past forward 17 years to Wallace versus du Randt and little appears to have changed. While the opening scrums did not bode well for the Lions, all it took was a quiet huddle and a quick reappraisal of what was required for the situation to be addressed. Smith and Wallace, the Lions' odd couple, proved that, with the right technique and application, they could comfortably hold their own.

"Fair play to them, they pulled themselves together, especially Wallace, who handled du Randt quite admirably," Price said. "Wallace was prepared to take his man on, confronting him in the scrum rather than just trying to hold his own. He was taking him down low, not offering du Randt his outside arm for him to use as leverage, and he had du Randt in a

bit of a pickle at times, especially at the end when the Lions' fitness came through."

To think that, barely four months ago, Smith was making his debut for Scotland, while Wallace was a last-minute replacement on this tour for Peter Clohesy. When the Lions arrived, both seemed destined for secondary roles, but have risen to the occasion, leapfrogging Jason Leonard and Dai Young.

Smith, as quiet a man off the field as Wallace is garrulous, said: "We knew they were going to attack us at the set-piece and we knew it was the key. The first scrum was not good from our point of view. There were no excuses, we just didn't set ourselves properly. After that we realised what was required — which was maximum effort — and everything came together."

"The way the South Africans scrummage is more about brute force — straight on, no mess — see who can shove the hardest. But in Britain, it is more technically based, you come up against tight-heads who do drop it and mess you around a bit."

Wallace said: "They came at us very hard — in the first minute they had a good opportunity to hit the scrum and pop the ball in and the referee got on my back for a while. Once we had sorted that out and we worked out the need to get the body height lower, things came to fruition. The referee did not penalise me for dropping — it was binding. Once I got the referee's interpretations we could work on that."

Both players paid tribute to Jim Telfer, the forwards coach. "Jim's been a great help — he drives you fairly hard but you need that for mental toughness when you are absolutely wrecked running around the park and you just have to lift it," Wallace said. "It is good to have that toughness to go that extra yardage." As the Springboks have now found out.

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France stunned as Hardy makes try-scoring debut

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SELDOM can a temporary replacement have changed the course of a game as decisively as Mitch Hardy did for Australia in Sydney on Saturday. Hardy, who came on midway through the second half as a blood replacement for Stephen Larkham, the injured full back, scored two tries to set the Wallabies on their way to a 29-15 victory over France, the five nations' champions.

"I had been looking forward to this game all week and the opportunities fell my way," Hardy said. "It was just sensational, you can't dream it better." Hardy, who was winning his first cap, impressed the national selectors to such an extent that he has been retained in the squad for the second and final international next Saturday, despite the return from injury of Matt Burke.

John Eales, the Australia captain, had kept his team in the game with five penalty goals in reply to five tries by Philippe Bernat-Salles and Thomas Castaignède. Hardy's interventions, after the sides had been deadlocked at 15-15, rewarded a determined second-half effort by Australia.

Greg Smith, the Australia coach, pronounced himself happy with the win. "I was very pleased with the performance given that it was our first game this season," Smith said. "To beat France is really special."

The France management was not unduly upset about the defeat. "We lost the match in five minutes because of two turnovers," Jean-Claude Skrela, the coach, said. "In the first half we played quite well and we could have scored one or two tries more."

Pierre Villepreux, his assistant, added: "There was a problem with the number of penalties we gave away. We were caught offside in the ruck and we will have to work on that before the second Test."

Across the Tasman Sea, New Zealand produced an awesome performance to beat Argentina by a margin of 85 points. New Zealand scored 14 tries, seven in each half, at Athletic Park, Wellington, so often a windswept and rain-drenched venue not at all conducive to attacking football. A total of 101 points were scored as the Pumas, who had beaten England earlier this month, went down 93-8.

Ten New Zealand players figured on the scoresheet, Carlos Spencer registering a personal tally of 33 points — a national record — including two tries. Sean Fitzpatrick, the captain, who was playing in his 85th international, also scored a memorable try in which almost the whole XV handled the ball.

There was also a touch of arrogance when Zinzan Brooke, the No 8, executed a perfect cross-kick on the Argentina 22 for his brother Robin to score.

The stunned Argentina players agreed that they had been taught a harsh lesson. "One never expects to lose in this way," Lisandro Arbizu, the captain, said. "We've got to think of the next game and we have got to keep our morale up ... it's happened before where we've started badly in the first Test and come back in the second." Zimbabwe achieved one of the more unlikely results of the year when they beat Italy 52-39 in Harare on Saturday. Both sides scored six tries, with Douglas Treevella, the Zimbabwe full back, garnering 27 points before going off injured.

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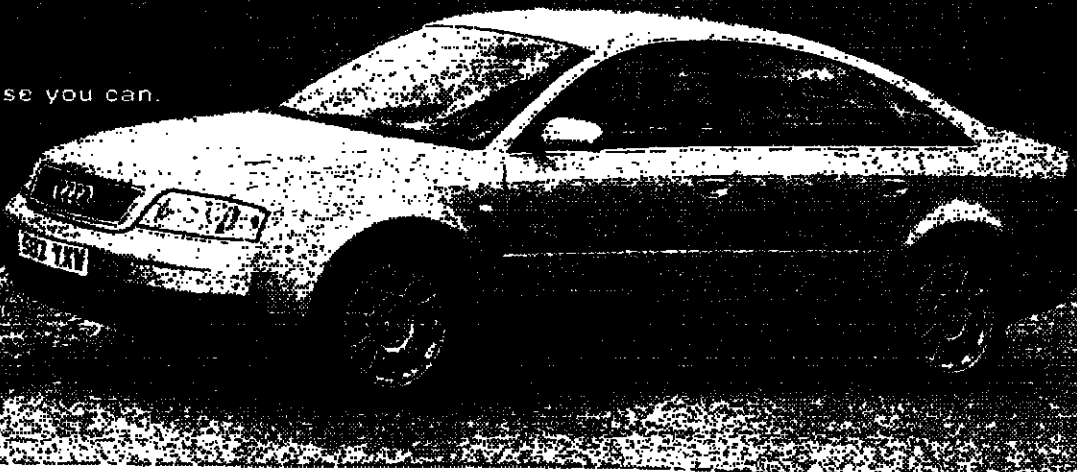
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هاتف الامتياز

Johnson's battlers expose world champions' limited gameplan to draw first blood

Springboks caught by Lions rampant

South Africa 16
British Isles 25

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN CAPE TOWN

FOR the first time in 23 years, the British Isles won the opening international of a series at Newlands on Saturday. By doing so, the Lions present South Africa with the dire prospect of a second successive series defeat at home unless, within the next 13 days, the Springboks can rediscover a sense of cohesion and discipline, so evidently missing here.

On a weekend when all three southern-hemisphere powers took the field, it is apparent that New Zealand, who won in South Africa last summer, lead the rest of the world by a distance. Yet there now seems little between the chasing pack — though, admittedly, the Lions are four of the rest — and certainly not the gap between the two hemispheres that is so frequently debated. To make the point even more forcefully, however, the Lions must win in Durban on Saturday or Johannesburg the following week to clinch the series.

"Winning a test in South Africa is something we have dreamed about but it's no good winning one test and losing two," Martin Johnson, the Lions captain, said. "When we've won two, we'll have something to shout about."

Still, Johnson and his team could savour the sweet taste of victory as the wind gusts in from the ocean and the rain, predicted for the match, swept through the Cape as 50,000 baffled Springbok supporters wended their way home.

Baffled because their team had been exalted to a level above anything the Lions had previously encountered, with the justification of current form — as a unit — to back such prognostications. In the event, they played, or were forced to play, to a limited formula that hinged far too much on the erratic form of Jost van der Westhuizen and, on a day when none of their experienced outside backs showed much penetration.

However, the two elements which not even the most experienced Lion-watchers could guarantee fell into place: it was critical that the tight-five forwards held firm, and they did. It was critical that Matthew Dawson played not only with heart but with judgment, and he did: the little Northampton scrum half made only one error of note, with a kick out of defence which went into midfield and paved the way for a successful penalty goal by Honiball.

Otherwise, his sharing of responsibility with Townsend, his bravery in the tackle and reading of the game were first class; given that he also scored the try — with, ultimately, nonchalant ease — that restored the Lions' lead, then Dawson's contribution is hard to overstate, yet it would not have been possible without the hard work of the forwards — of Wood, who was utterly magnificent in covering the ground, of Davidson, who dominated the lineout, of Hill, who played into the faces of the Springbok backs.

All these players came of age on Saturday: the stalwart quality of the pack, where Smith and Wallace — despite being penalised twice for lowering the scrum — took no time at all to sort out their initial difficulties, will have heartened the entire team. Overall, victory, attributed by Fran Cotton, the manager, not just to the match XV but the whole 35-strong squad, will tee up the confidence of the Lions for the last fortnight of



Tait, the British Isles wing, touches down for the fourth and final try of the first international between the Lions and South Africa in Cape Town

what bids fair to be an historic tour.

It was deeply significant that the Lions did not play quite the game that South Africa may have anticipated. They were far more structured than at any other time, kicking for territory through the accurate Townsend rather than running themselves into position, waiting for their chance to strike rather than chasing gaps that did not exist.

They did not panic, either, when South Africa had the ball nor when they themselves could not sustain possession for more than short bursts. There was an authority to

their play that is the product both of good preparation and self-confidence — when the match could have swung against them, early in the second half — when Bennett's try returned the lead to South Africa or when the same player was denied only by Venter's marginally-forward pass — the Lions played their waiting game.

This time they had to wait until only seven minutes remained on the clock. The first half had been one of wary jousting, Lubbe's opening penalty being matched by Jenkins, but South Africa built growing territorial pressure

until they forced a lineout ten metres from the Lions line. Andrews scored high and du Randt, with the force of his colleagues behind him, rumbled over the try-line.

However, Lubbe, as he had with an earlier penalty, struck the conversion wide and Jenkins, just when the Lions needed his inspiration, kept his team in the match. He missed once but, when his forwards created the chances, kicked two angled goals from 25 metres to give the Lions their 9-8 interval lead.

Lubbe departed with a damaged hamstring during the break, which introduced Ben-

nett, normally a full back, to the left wing, where he proceeded to show all the assurance that his colleagues lacked. South Africa persisted with a shallow line and very flat passing which, so long as the Lions made their first-time tackles, could be held; they did, though it was ironic that Gibbs, so destructive in the tackle, should have missed Teichmann when the South Africa captain created space for Bennett's try.

The score erased the four-point difference which Jenkins, with his fourth penalty, had built and, when Honiball added a penalty, the balance

appeared to be tilting South Africa's way. But the Lions had already shown their desire to switch tactics in the second half, moving their heavier opponents round the field more, and twice worked space on the left in attacks that were not pressed home.

Jenkins kicked a fifth goal and Gibbs, with a critical tackle, kept Venter at bay. "The defence was awesome," McCeechan said. "We only had one penalty against us for offside defending, which shows what a disciplined performance it was."

Even so, two mistakes by Honiball allowed the Lions

out of jail: the first, a knock-on, earned respite and then a kick out on the full earned an attacking lineout.

That paved the way for the scrum where a confident pack wheeled slightly left and Dawson shot away for his try. The panic induced in South African ranks told its own story. They tried to run out of deep defence rather than kicking long into the Lions' half and were cut down; the departure of Smith, after a magnificent match, with a leg injury only brought Leonard bustling on and it was he who set up the ruck from which Gibbs broke powerfully towards the posts. Rodger carried the ball on and Jenkins dispatched Tait for the killing thrust.

On Friday, Jim Telfer, the assistant coach, had spoken of the tunnel into which the Lions were entering without knowing whether they would emerge successfully. Now they have taken both an historical and psychological first step: fear of the unknown has been erased and a bright light shines at the tunnel's end.

It was a try of which Robert Howley, the Cardiff scrum half who would surely have played on Saturday but for the dislocated shoulder he suffered in the game against Natal a week earlier, would have been proud. Before the Lions left home, Howley himself had predicted: "People may have been talking me up on this trip but, by the end of it, I'm sure they'll be talking about Matt and Austin Healey." The South Africa selectors certainly are.

"A couple of us fell for the dummy," Gary Teichmann, their captain, said. "I was there, so was the wing [Russell Bennett] and André [Joubert], but it was one we should not have allowed. We thought he was going to pass."

The try also capped a remarkably mature game by Dawson, one in which he met the challenge of Jost van der Westhuizen — whom many consider to be the best in his position in the world — and emerged a winner.

Nation rises to toast Dawson's moment of magic

FROM DAVID HANDS

HOW sweetly the fortunes of leading sportsmen change. Eight months ago, Matt Dawson was cast down by his omission from the England team to play Italy; on Saturday, the Northampton scrum half was the toast of an entire nation enthused by the British Isles' success in Cape Town.

Dawson's try, in the 73rd minute at Newlands, was the moment when the Lions took a lead over South Africa that they could not, would not relinquish. It was the moment when their famed finishing power, so consistent an element of this tour, came to fruition and when the response of the Springboks indicated that they knew they were a beaten team.

That it came from the set scrum, which South African pundits believed would be an area of Lions weakness, only added the icing to the cake. A wheel to the left opened up a big blind side some 35 metres from the South Africa line and Dawson shot off down it, looking to link with Iwan Evans, his right wing.

Evans, however, stepped inside him and Dawson shaped an overhead pass which the defence bought, hook, line and sinker. As the cover checked, Dawson maintained his diagonal run and was able to cross in the corner at a saunter.

For a player capped five times during the 1995-96 sea-



Dawson: mature display

son but then ignored by England, before a knee injury disrupted his progress, it was a crowning moment. "The initial platform was set by the forwards," Dawson, 24, said. "Because we had control, I could get on the outside and away. It was the first ten yards that made it. I suppose you could call it a dummy, but I didn't give it. I haven't got away with that one for a long time, not since school."

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South Africa pay dearly for mistakes

Rob Andrew believes the hardest task is still to come against a proud team that can only improve

THIS was an outstanding victory, perhaps not one of the world's greatest games of rugby, but, as a contest, it was enthralling. What won the match was the defence — we sometimes forget that rugby is not just about attack — and the British Isles can be very proud of what they have achieved in Cape Town. The back row defence and the midfield, particularly Gibbs but also Townsend and Guscott, was outstanding. The rugby league boys on this tour have added defensive steel to the side.

The scrummaging did not disintegrate. Although, after the first two scrums, it looked ominous for the Lions, they settled down, recovering from a nervous first five minutes, which was understandable with so many players playing their first international for the combined British XV. The lineout worked extremely well, Jeremy Davidson winning ball in the middle so much that they did not need to use Martin Johnson that often.

South Africa were sloppy and looked rusty... and leaving out their international players from the provincial matches enabled the Lions to build up confidence and momentum.

If those players had appeared for Gauteng Lions and Natal, the Lions might have lost those games, which could have had a significant psychological impact.

The South Africans had sufficient possession and played pretty sensibly in the first half, using the short side well with Van der Westhuizen, but while territorially they squeezed the Lions, they looked short of ideas. They did not really put any part of their game together 100 per cent and that is something for the Lions to worry about, because I do not think the South Africans will play quite as badly in the next match. Unforced errors by, in particular, Honiball with a quarter of an hour to go proved to be big turning points. Venter's forward pass to Russell Bennett — if that try had gone in, I think the Lions would have lost was followed by Honiball knocking

on from a lineout, then kicking out on the full and those incidents, in the space of about a minute, turned the momentum towards the Lions.

The Springboks made probably a dozen serious errors. On their own lineout ball, they missed four or five catches, Joubert dropped the ball twice and made misjudgments with the bouncing ball, while there were several handling errors in the backs. You will not get 12 big errors like that again from a side as good as the Springboks.

South Africa will feel that some of their mistakes gave the game away, but a lot were forced by the intensity of the Lions' defence and, as a result, the Lions have come away with a huge victory that is vital for northern hemisphere rugby as much as anything else. This win ranks with any Lions victory, especially after all the question marks about the initial selection of the squad and for the team on Saturday.

They thoroughly deserved the victory, but they have got a lot of hard work to do. South African rugby is highly politicised, which is one of their great weaknesses. They do not like losing at home and expected to win this series 3-0. Now they know they cannot afford to slip again. There will be huge pressure on Carle du Plessis, the coach, and Gary Teichmann, the captain, from a rugby public that lives and breathes the game.

The Lions must enjoy this win, but put it into perspective. They must not underestimate the Springboks' ability to bounce back. England beat them in 1994 in the first international and, in the second, they hit us with a hurricane. If the Lions think they worked hard defensively today, they are going to have to work twice as hard next week.

The Lions have got to grasp this series. They must not sit here in two weeks' time having lost the series 2-1 saying "if only". We blew our chance in 1993 against the All Blacks, I blew a chance to win the World Cup in 1991 and you regret it for the rest of your life.

SCORES: South Africa: Tries: Du Randt, Barrett. Penalty goals: Lubbe, Honiball. British Isles: Tries: Dawson, Tait. Penalty goals: Jenkins (5). SOUTH AFRICA: A J Joubert (Natal), J T Small (Western Province), J C Mulder (Gauteng), E Lubbe (Gauteng), A H Smith (Northern Transvaal), H W Honiball (Natal), J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal), J P du Randt (Free State), A E Drostel (Free State), A C Garvey (Natal), R J Kruiger (Northern Transvaal), J J Strydom (Gauteng), M G Andrews (Natal), A G Venter (Free State), G H Teichmann (Natal, captain), Lubbe (Gauteng), R G Bennett (Border, 40 min). BRITISH ISLES: N R Jenkins (Pontypool and Wales), J C Evans (Llanelli and Wales), J S Gibbs (Swansea and Wales), J C Guscott (Bath and England), A V Tait (Newcastle and Scotland), G P J Townsend (Northampton and Scotland), M J S Dawson (Northampton and England), T J Smith (Worcestershire and Scotland), K G M Wood (Worcestershire and Ireland), P S Wallace (Scarlets and Ireland), L B N Dagglio (Wales and England), M O Johnson (Leicester and England), captain, J W Davidson (London Irish and Ireland), R A Hill (Scarlets and England), T A K Rodger (Northampton and England), Smith (captain), J Leonard (Hawke's Bay and England, 70 min). Referee: C J Hawke (New Zealand).

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CRICKET: AUSTRALIA PLAY THEMSELVES INTO POSITION TO LEVEL SERIES WITH VICTORY IN SECOND TEST MATCH

Elliott thrives on England's shortcomings

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (fourth day of five): Australia, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 136 runs ahead of England

FOR spectators, groundstaff and anyone Australian, Lord's on another dank day was purgatory. For the England dressing-room, it was providential, though not necessarily protective. Even a meagre ration of 17.4 overs on an extended evening has condemned them to a fraught finale to this bedevilled second Cornhill Test.

It may be thought that only ineptitude, or a scale still grander than England have already achieved in this match can now donate the Ashes advantage won barely a fortnight ago, but to face a deficit of around 180 and bat out five hours on an untrustworthy pitch — the assignment likely to face them this morning — will be a considerable test of character.

That it should come to this is partly their own doing and partly that of Matthew Elliott, who yesterday completed his maiden Test century on the ground that inspires so many Australians. Elliott had required outrageous good fortune to make his first half-century, but he played with dash and daring yesterday to add 57 from 54 balls.

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

Australia won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings

M A Butcher c Blewett b McGrath 5

(28min, 26 balls, 1 four)

*M A Atherton c Taylor b McGrath 1

(38min, 34 balls, 1 four)

T A J Stewart b McGrath 1

(18min, 13 balls)

N Hussain lbw b McGrath 19

(11min, 73 balls, 2 fours)

G P Thorpe c Blewett b Reiffel 21

(61min, 49 balls, 4 fours)

J P Crawley c Healy b McGrath 1

(21min, 17 balls)

M A Calhoun c Elliott b Reiffel 7

(51min, 30 balls, 1 four)

R D B Croft c Healy b McGrath 2

(18min, 13 balls)

D Gough c Healy b McGrath 10

(11min, 10 balls, 2 fours)

A R Caddick lbw b McGrath 1

(7min, 5 balls)

D E Malcolm not out 0

(2min, 0 balls)

Extras (4, no 5) 9

Total (42.3 overs, 188min) 77

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11 (Atherton 1), 2-12 (Stewart 1), 3-13 (Hussain 1), 4-17 (Hussain 1), 5-28 (Hussain 19), 6-32 (Calhoun 7), 7-36 (Croft 2), 8-37 (Crawley 1), 9-77 (Caddick 1)

BOWLING: McGrath 20.3-6-36-8 (5 fours, 10-2-21-3, 10-3-6-17-5), Reiffel 15-9-17-2 (no 3; 2 fours, 5-4-10, 1-0-3-0, 9-5-13-2), Kasprowicz 5-1-0-0 (no 2, 1 four, one spell), Warner 2-0-0-0 (2 fours, one spell)

SCORING NOTES: Second day, Lunch: 38-3 (21 overs, 92min, Hussain 10, Thorpe 10)

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor b Gough 1

(18min, 15 balls)

M T G Elliott c Crawley b Caddick 112

(108min, 126 balls, 9 fours)

G S Blewett c Hussain b Croft 45

(63min, 70 balls, 7 fours)

M E Waugh c Malcolm b Caddick 33

(81min, 60 balls, 1 four)

Partners came and went bewilderingly as Australia, intent on seizing the bonus of some cricket, lost four wickets for 12 in their eagerness to attack. Elliott rose above it. Pulling fearlessly and driving with lordly power and judgment, he played with a freedom to mock the constant comparisons with Bill Lawry, that other angular, left-handed Victorian.

Elliott was out in the penultimate over, a well-judged catch at long-leg giving Andy Caddick his fourth wicket of the session. By then, however, he had made England's quest for survival appreciably more difficult than it had promised to be through a day of showers and storms when any play at all had looked improbable.

It was no day to be a groundsman, nor one of his helpers, but after many hours of to-ing and fro-ing with the covers, their efforts were rewarded by a resumption at 5.40pm, preventing the unwanted statistic of two lost days in a Test in England for the first time in ten years. Even this brief period was interrupted once by a further shower, but Australia still made the best of it, adding 82 runs. The loss of wickets disturbed them only in terms of delay.

Mark Waugh had announced the team's intentions by advancing down the pitch to Caddick, but his improvised drive only flew to third man, where Malcolm, clung on gratefully.

Shane Warne was fruitlessly promoted, top-edging Gough to cover, and when Caddick then swiftly removed Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan it seemed that England's deficit might be contained. Instead, Elliott took command thrillingly. He struck 15 in an over from Gough and pulled Caddick for successive fours as he dropped too short. A drive off Gough was the best stroke of all. The Australian batting is still not functioning as it once did, but this man is a considerable acquisition.

The paradox of England's cricket to date is that their batting has not been the worst of it. It was inglorious to be bowled out for 77, of course, but not inexplicable, for the pitch was hostile and the bowling of Glenn McGrath superb. The shame came from a session in the field, on Saturday, that would have embarrassed a village team.

Six chances were spurned, three of them as simple as a Test cricketer has any right to expect. Misfields became commonplace and run-out attempts, that previously this summer have hit the stumps unerringly, were now hurled off target, symptomatic of a team that had temporarily lost its belief.

The tone was set by a moment of high farce in the tenth over of the Australia innings. Greg Blewett, disconcerted by a steeply-lifting ball from Caddick, jabbed it in a gentle parabola to the slip cordon, where three fielders stood back and left it for each other.

Blewett made another 29 before being lured out by Robert Croft's drift, but this preceded a scarcely credible passage in which four runs were scored while England missed three chances. The first, a miscued hook from Elliott off the suffering Caddick which lobbed directly to fine leg, will not feature among the favourite video clips in Devon Malcolm's household.

Butcher, for whom things can only get better, dropped Elliott twice more, so that, in effect, he reached 50 on his fourth life. Mark Waugh, jumpy insecure as a measure of both his own form and the nature of the pitch, could have been caught at slip, should have been run out and might even have been stumped.

The incumbent wicket-keeper, however, was not Alec Stewart, a martyr to one of his periodic back spasms. But John Crawley, for a deputy who has worn the gloves only occasionally since his mid-

teens, he had performed capably, but even a regular and accomplished wicketkeeper would have been tested by the legside chance as Croft saw Waugh advancing.

Yesterday, before handing back to Stewart, Crawley reflected that he had enjoyed the experience, though not the circumstances. "We are not especially proud of this," he said with understatement. "In many ways, the fielding was more deflating than the batting, because, if we had caught all our catches, they could have been 100 for six and

another win would not have been out of the question."

This was no exaggeration. A pitch that bounces as irregularly as this one can only deteriorate and, given only slightly better weather, a finish would surely have been obtained well inside the distance. It is not quick enough to be a dangerous surface, but neither is it one with which anyone at Lord's can feel comfortable. Batting on it has been a precarious business, and will remain so on what may yet be a diverting final day.



Elliott hooks powerfully at Lord's yesterday evening on his way to a maiden Test century for Australia

THIRD DAY: Test: 70-1 (221 overs, 90min; Elliott 23, Blewett 44) Stumps 131-2 (43.2 overs, 188 min; Elliott 55, M E Waugh 26, Seven breaks for rained light — 231 overs lost.

FOURTH DAY: Start delayed until 5.40pm.

UMPIRES: D R Shepherd and S Venkataraghavan (India).

THIRD UMPIRE: D J Constant.

MATCH REFEREE: R S Madgala (Sri Lanka).

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Edgbaston) England won by nine wickets. Tests to come: Second (Lord's) June 26-27, Third (Old Trafford) July 3-7, Fourth (Headingley) July 24-28, Fifth (Trent Bridge) August 7-11, Sixth (The Oval) August 21-25.

Compiled by Bill Frindall

Lord's mystique lifts McGrath

John Woodcock recalls that Massie took his wickets on a far better surface for batting



Mid the exhilaration and hyperbole that attended England's victory in the first Test match at Edgbaston, it was easy to lose sight of the fact that if Australia had bowled first, and not England, the result would almost certainly have been reversed. What cricket there has been at Lord's in the second Test match, has mostly borne that out.

Once again the ground has brought the best out of England but not out of the old enemy. While Glenn McGrath was running through the England batting on Friday evening and Saturday morning, it came as a reminder, inevitably, of Bob Massie's extraordinary bowling in the corresponding match of 1972. Playing in his first Test, Massie, who was 25 at the time, took eight for 85 in England's first innings and eight for 53 in their second. Whereas McGrath moves the ball mostly off the pitch, Massie swung it in the air, so prodigiously on this occasion as to be quite peculiar. In the same match Dennis Lillee's figures were an unexceptional four for 140 in 45 overs.

That was a truer pitch in 1972 than the present one, which made Massie's achievement all the more notable. And yet within little more than a year he was a spent force, something which he puts down to a loss of rhythm. Nothing is more mortifying to a bowler than to mislay his rhythm. Now that McGrath has recovered his and has settled into an English length, Australia have in him the best of the quicker bowlers on either side. More regularly than anyone else, he will put the ball where the batsmen least want it to be.

Not only was Massie at Lord's last week to watch McGrath, but so was Keith

Miller who, in 1956, took ten wickets there for the only time in his Test career. Miller loved playing at Lord's almost more than anywhere else. The grandeur of the place appealed to him, and he could exploit the ridge that appeared from time to time on a good length at the Nursery End in the 1950s and 1960s and made him an even more fearsome proposition than usual. It gave all fast bowlers of the day an advantage, besides causing many a broken finger.

For the first Test match in 1960 the pitch was moved by a yard towards the pavilion (not laterally, that is, but longitudinally) in the hope of escaping the malign influence of the ridge, but South Africa were still bowled out by Brian Trueman (11 wickets), Fred Trueman, Alan Moss and Ted Dexter for 152 and 137. The first ball of South Africa's first innings, bowled by Statham, flew off a length and glanced the peak of Jack McGlew's cap, almost turning it back to front.

It all made, of course, for some heroic batting too, such as Everton Weekes's 90 in West Indies second innings in 1957. It was after one of those Test matches, before the ground had been cleared, that men appeared with theodolites and put up a screen around themselves to make sure that secrecy was effected.

CLIVE MASON / ALLSPORT



McGrath leads Australia off after his eight-wicket haul

Early euphoria is washed away as harsh reality bites

By ROB HUGHES, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

What kind of flannelled fools are we to believe that this summer, after the way euphoria petered out last year, will restore our cricket to "the best in the world", or will give us another run of Henmanism at Wimbledon, or will finally put down those rugby Springboks on their own territory in South Africa?

The rain may save England from Australian humiliation at Lord's; it has already been a backlash after Edgbaston that has watered down the triumphalism and nationalism. But, unless we learn not to play the media game of hype and hope, a game that thrives on selling the story of victory and then denouncing the participants when they fail, we run the greater risk of believing that all is well in the British sporting garden, when we have not laboured sufficiently to build true foundations.

The British Isles' victory in the first international in Cape Town on Saturday has been the most impressive mark of the summer. It entailed standing up to South African bullies in rugby shirts and proving superior through physical conditioning and determination at the very end. Yet Martin Johnson, the Lions captain, in contrast to what has been said and written about the cricket, and even the football "triumph" in lifting a trophy in France, brought proper perspective.

"To be part of a Lions victory is fantastic, but one is not good enough," Johnson said, soberly and severely. "We have to get two. If we do that we can look back on it forever and say we did it. If we

lose two now, we've let ourselves down." Astutely said. No pretensions from Johnson about the value to the nation of winning a rugby match, or even, we may now hope, a series. No idle boast, nothing but the kind of straightforward Englishness of going out into the world and wearing a cloak of humility while we compete to the heights of our capacity.

How very different at cricketers' headquarters. By now, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the highest lord at Lord's, has realised the boomerang effect of his attempts to uplift England through rhetoric that, ultimately, might have achieved the opposite effect. Amid the persis-

County weakness 31
Warne interest 32

tent patter of rain on canvas, the psychological game played on. Amid the clatter of English wickets, the lowest score of an England team at the home of cricket this century, the Australians, of all people, turned down the hurdles.

"We were caught a little underdone at Edgbaston," Alan Crompton, the Australia tour manager, said. "All that is being said is helping to focus us." And Dennis Lillee, that old fast-bowling Australian warrior, had the ear of Glenn McGrath, who was to rediscover his rhythm and his motivation and take an historic eight for 38. "To come here, the home of cricket, and do it on your doorstep, so to speak ... that's the ultimate," Lillee had said. "Besides, you can't be freaked out by getting

caught on one bad toss, one bad innings, if you are professional."

Now, providing the rain holds, England have to work out how to turn the situation, one-up with four to play in the Test series, into a genuine winning platform. Triumphalism and complacency, should be discarded as imposters, the insidious enemies within. More than that, realising that we had the kangaroo by the tail but we did not tie him down, England must now adopt a different strategy.

At Lord's, the 28,000 people who have come in high expectation, day after day, have themselves made an interesting spectacle. Some of them, not with faces painted in the cross of St George, but with yellow and red ties firmly fixed, ignored the forecasts and placed their rugs and picnic hampers on the lawns behind the grandstands. Being British, they still had their lunch: sitting with dampened bottoms beneath large umbrellas and downing the claret. Some traditions may never change and it would be good if we rediscovered the proper place for sport in society.

That entails not judging everything by the fixation of winning, the lack of worth in losing. The soul of sport is the game itself, the examination of each generation, each selected team, in the field of "play", testing their merit and their tolerance levels.

It was Einstein who theorised that nationalism is an infantile disease, "the measles of mankind". Sport never should be as spurious, as immature, as that.

One more chance for Butcher before the chop

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

CRICKET - doesn't - half have a way of bringing the unwary down to earth with a bump. Since Mark Butcher returned from the England A tour examination in Australia last year, when he took a "starred first" in batting and all-round good-eggery, everybody has been telling him what a jolly good player he is, and what a fine Test career lies ahead. On Saturday night, 1½ games into that career, he must have felt very small.

In the England first innings — and it may well be their only innings if the King of Spain insists on paying a final diplomatic call today — he was out cheaply for the third time in the series. As a fielder, he then passed up a chance at slip that he should have caught in his sleep, appeared to ignore another that popped up between him and Graham Thorpe, and grassed a more difficult one at silly point.

He is not actually a bad fielder, but that knowledge will be lost on many members of the exotic cricket tribes who come to Lord's, having seen little of the players in their county lives. "That chap Butcher, from Surrey, he's struggling a bit," somebody will say. "Didn't his father play for England once?"

"Yes — once," another will reply, and, after a good laugh, they'll go back to the Rioja.

Lord's is a wonderful place to succeed, and a merciless place to fail. To walk back to the dressing-room through a Long Room that seems ignorant of your presence is to receive the coldest of shoulders. Players from other countries, Glenn McGrath being the latest, often take more encouragement from the ground's famous associations than many England



Butcher: struggling

cricketers, who dislike being there because they don't feel made welcome.

Making young players feel welcome has become the *idée fixe* of Team England plc. If Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the voluble chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, has his way, the poor sprigs may in future be sent abroad with their own "quality leisure time consultants" advising them how best to while away those off-duty hours.

MacLaurin, the Tesco man, borrowed his slogan from the Co-op for this new "caring, sharing" approach. Butcher was the first to benefit when he received his England cap from Michael Atherton on the field, before the start of the first day's play at Edgbaston. That was a nice touch, but having an England cap does not by itself make the recipient a Test cricketer.

He didn't look out of place at Edgbaston, where he caught well and, despite falling twice with the bat, did not look in awe of the bowling. That's a start, for opening the innings in Test cricket is not for bairns. As a new boy, against Australia to boot, it can be a prospect to daunt the least nervous.

On that score, if no other, Butcher should be given one more chance to prove he has that Test career in him. The selectors did not make their choice on a whim and two of them, Gooch and Gatting, know just how difficult it is to take that first, decisive step.

Besides, this is not the time to begin tinkering with a team that was not assembled for a short-term purpose. And the sight of a fellow left-handed opener, batting beautifully last night for an admirable hundred can only stiffen the Surrey man's resolve.

CRICKET

Report exposes weaknesses of county game

SIX weeks remain before the publication of a blueprint for the future of the English game, a document on which, with unambiguous threat, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth is resting his own future in cricket. The pressure on the counties is growing.

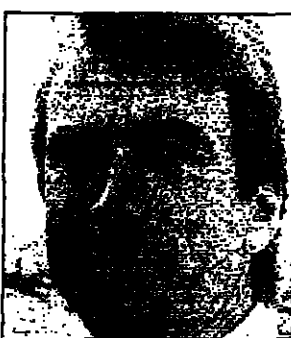
MacLaurin, who has brought a rare dynamism to the corridors of Lord's as the first chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), is confident of carrying the counties with him, however radical or reformist his proposals may be. Certain county officials, instinctively resistant to imposed change, remain sceptical.

At this sensitive stage, then, it is significant that the Board has chosen to circulate the counties with a report that starkly details their lack of independence. Each of the 18 clubs has received a copy of the 19-page study of the game's finances and few will have enjoyed its conclusions.

Entitled *The financial health of English cricket* and compiled by a researcher from the University of Sheffield and a professor of the Leicester Business School, the report makes bleak reading for the diehards of the shires. Its principal conclusion — that counties are wholly or partly sustained by their annual grant from the centrally generated source of international cricket — will surprise few. It goes on to state that "county cricket has no significant support from the general public", "the proportion of revenue provided by members' subscriptions is falling" and "commercial income is insufficient to support the present structure".

These are cold, hard facts, but its contention that "it is difficult to see how county cricket could survive in its current form without this level of grant income" will cut deepest at the complacent

ALAN LEE



Championship Commentary

who still retard the logical advances of the game.

Peter Edwards, the general manager of that most reactionary of counties, Essex, had his say on the imminent blueprint in this column recently. He does not believe great changes are essential and he contends that many of his colleagues around the country share his view.

Interestingly, however, acclaim for the new report came this week from Lancashire, whose chief executive, John Bower, welcomed it as "justifying precisely what I have been saying at Board meetings for some time". And Lancashire, the study reveals, are in a position of rare strength. Only 14 per cent of the club's total income during the studied year of 1995 was contributed by Board grant. By comparison, the grant was responsible for 50 per cent of income, or more, at six counties.

The most reliant of all was Leicestershire, the county champions, who, it is said, need to increase their "earned income" by 172 per cent in order to eliminate their dependence on central hand-outs.

County cricket's total costs in 1995, the report adds, were

nearly £30 million and "gate receipts from the general public defrayed only five per cent of this total". Such figures may just help to remind the county delegates that the health and performance of the England team is paramount to the survival, let alone prosperity of their clubs. Whether it will persuade them of the need to adopt a two-division county championship is debatable.

Lancashire, who have long proposed such a move, may find themselves in the second division if it should come about. They suffered their fourth defeat of a melancholy season at Liverpool on Saturday, when Glamorgan bowled them out for 51 to win a game that had lost almost three days to the weather.

This was a remarkable reversal of roles. Precisely a week ago, Glamorgan were themselves dismissed for 31 by Middlesex. Now, within 14 overs of mayhem in which Waqar Younis included a hat-trick in figures of seven for 25, they humiliated a county that continues to bely its evidently robust resources with spineless championship cricket.

It is true that Lancashire were without five senior players, but their membership — the biggest of any county — may be tiring of such excuses. They now stand one place and two points off the foot of the table, having played a match more than the team below them, Northamptonshire.

At the other end of affairs, Middlesex took charge with an important and hard-fought win at Bristol. Gloucestershire have steel in their cricket this year and, on a pitch marked as poor and earning the club a suspended ten-point deduction after official inspections, they fell only 45 runs short of a daunting target of 263.

Middlesex, for whom Jamie Hewitt continues to impress, take over the leadership from Kent, the casualties of a result every neutral will welcome. With no need of contrivance but with much resolute cricket, Durham bowled out Kent for a second time to secure their first win in 24 championship matches.

David Boon, whose captaincy has helped to generate self-belief in place of fatalism, scored only one run in the match, but ended it by taking two wickets with his occasional off-breaks. Durham, this morning, have five counties below them. More important, they will feel that winning is not quite the impossibility it seemed for so long.

	P	W	L	D	B	Pts
Middlesex (9)	7	4	1	2	17	28
Kent (4)	7	4	2	1	14	28
Gloucestershire (13)	7	3	2	2	13	28
Glamorgan (10)	7	3	1	3	17	21
Essex (5)	6	3	1	2	14	24
Nottingham (17)	7	3	1	3	5	25
Hampshire (14)	5	2	2	4	21	18
Yorkshire (6)	7	2	3	1	18	24
Lancashire (1)	7	1	0	6	19	28
Somerset (11)	5	1	2	5	16	29
Warwickshire (1)	5	1	0	5	15	21
Worcestershire (6)	6	2	1	3	10	17
Derbyshire (18)	7	1	2	4	14	22
Sussex (12)	7	0	2	5	12	26
Surrey (3)	7	0	2	5	15	30
Derbyshire (2)	7	0	3	4	10	26
Lancashire (19)	7	0	4	3	12	15
Northants (16)	6	0	2	4	7	17

(1996 positions in brackets)
□ Gloucestershire's record includes eight points as a side batting last in match where scores finished level

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Adams remains isolated from family

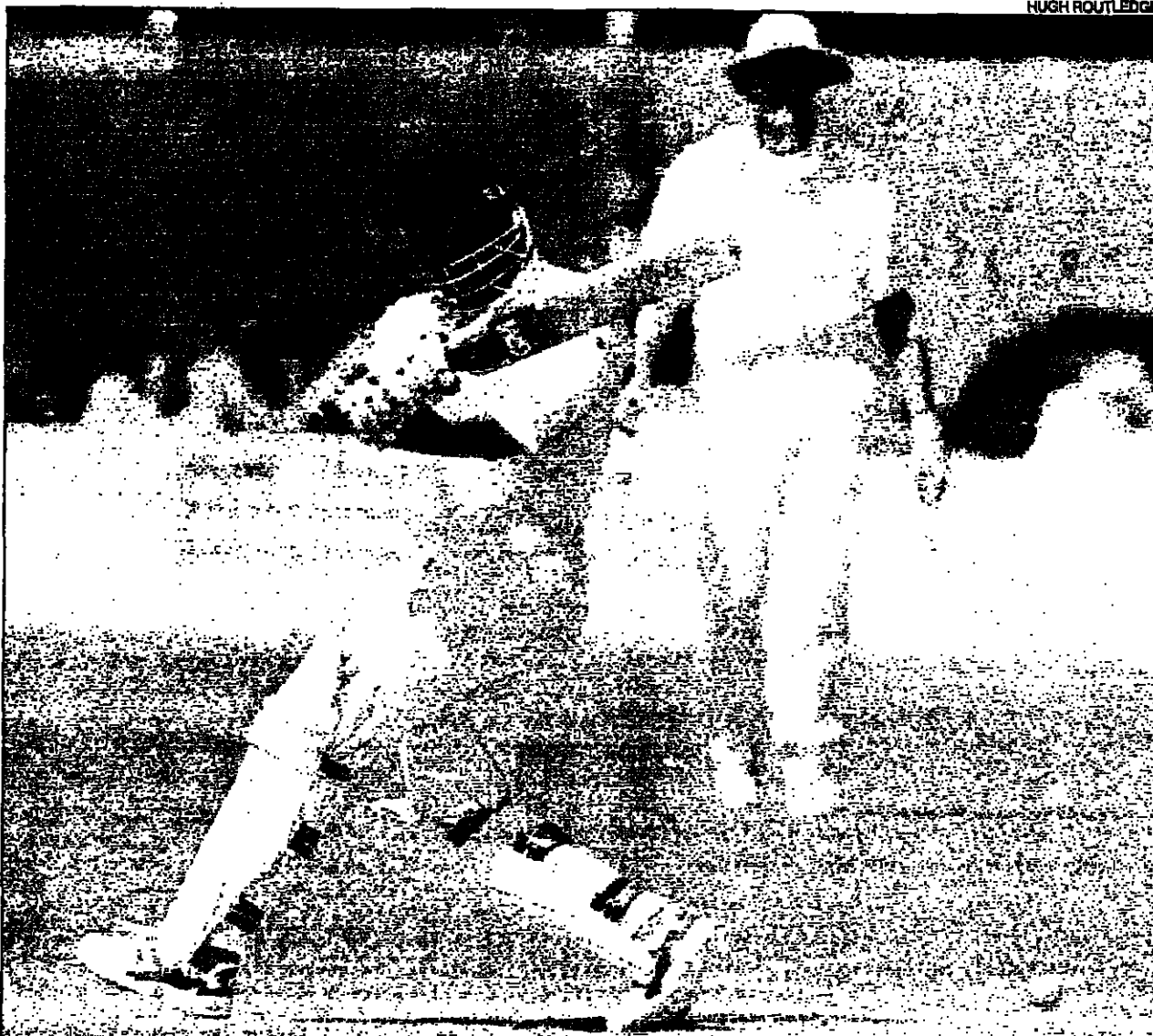
By BARNY SPENDER

THE English cricket season would not be complete without one of the counties indulging in internal wrangling and this year's front-runners are Derbyshire, whose changing-room became so fractious over the opening weeks of the summer that Dean Jones, their captain, packed his bags and left town. Yet even the departure of the abrasive Australian has not mollified the situation. Rumour, paranoia and division would seem to remain in abundance.

As Kim Barnett pointed out last week, when he was fined for breaking a press ban and commenting on the Dean Jones affair, nine out of ten of his team-mates, as well as Dominic Cork and the team physio, offered to contribute towards reimbursing the cost of his remarks, the point being that only one man was keeping his hand firmly in his pocket and not participating in the team's bonding process. Taken in tandem with his banishment from the slip cordon, where he excels, to the deep in the game against Sussex, it did not take Sherlock Holmes to work out that the odd man out is Chris Adams.

Depending on who you talk to, Adams is either a great guy or an arrogant so-and-so. The truth probably lies somewhere in the middle, but what cannot be doubted is that he is a high quality middle-order batsman, who stands on the cusp of an international career. He readily talks of a "burning ambition" to play for England and his performances in county cricket speak for themselves. Last year, he hit six championship hundreds and helped himself to more than 1,500 runs, while this summer, in spite of the problems at Derby, he has already passed the 500 mark. His attacking nature, which gives him a strike-rate of 90 runs per 100 balls, brought him to within a whisker of making England's Texaco Trophy squad.

Yet he is a troubled soul. He tried to leave the county last



Adams, a batsman with England ambitions, has stood alone in a Derbyshire dressing-room riven by disputes

season after being overlooked for both England tours, but was persuaded to stay by Jones, to whom he remains fiercely loyal. With Jones now gone, his future, at the age of 27, again looks uncertain.

"It has been a harrowing time for me," he admitted, in an interview that was monitored by the club's chief executive, Stuart Edwards, under the guideline that there was to be no direct comment on events of the last week. "Dean Jones is a legend as far as I am concerned. I am amazed at how professional

the guy is. He is an innovator, a real batter's batter. He takes the idea that you play aggressively and build defence into that, which is the opposite, I think, to what people in England generally think.

"He has definitely shown me the way that I want to build an innings and play cricket. Now I no longer have Dean with me, but I still have contact with the coach, Les Stillman, who has also been a big influence." However, with Stillman's position also clouded with uncertainty, Adams may soon be further

isolated. He is no stranger to making the headlines. In Derbyshire's win over the Australians three weeks ago, he was fined for appearing to dispute his first-innings dismissal, leg-before to Shane Warne, something he regrets. "The footage shows that I hit it and, when I first looked up, the umpire didn't have his finger up. The first I knew about it was when Shane Warne ran past me to go and celebrate. I was surprised to say the least, but that was definitely a one-off."

If there was a hint of

frustration then, there is twice as much now and Derbyshire, having already lost John Morris and Peter Bowler in recent years, are now surely resigned to losing Adams at the end of the summer.

Although Adams cannot comment on that, he remains, at the same time, optimistic and resigned to his future. "I think I am playing my best cricket, although I am only approaching my prime," he said, "but I just want to get through the season and then maybe there'll be the chance of a tour at the end of it."

Smith knocking on England's door

Mike Smith knows what he has to do to break into the England team because David Graveney has had a word with him. Try to score a few more runs, the chairman of selectors advised, work as hard as you can to improve your fielding, and you will be there or thereabouts.

From that, it is safe to assume that Graveney, who has followed Smith's career since he made his Gloucestershire debut in 1991, is already sufficiently impressed with the left-arm swing bowling that he has brought him 42 first-class wickets at only 15 runs apiece this season.

The other two selectors,

Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, should not take much convincing. Smith has got them both out in recent weeks, claiming Gooch leg-before, the classic mode of dismissal for a bowler of his type, and bowling Gatting neck and crop, admittedly on a devilish pitch at Bristol. Since he had Gatting dropped first ball and then clipped his off stump without dislodging a ball, he had more than made his point.

Gooch and Gatting are not quite the batsmen they used to be, of course, but they are still good players. And it is Smith's ability to get good players out that has taken him ahead of the likes of Mark Ilett, Alan Mullally and Simon Brown

Paf Gibson meets a swing bowler who could add variety to the national attack

when the selectors think about adding variety to the England attack.

If they need any confirmation of that ability, they only have to talk to Jack Russell, who keeps wicket to Smith day in and day out. "In my experience," Russell said "a lot of Test wickets are very flat and quick bowlers do need to swing the ball to get international batsmen out. Smudge

swings the ball a lot and he swings it late.

"He is not one of those guys who swing it from the arm. Occasionally he does, but generally it is when he puts it into the second half of the pitch or even the last yard that it goes whoosh. He can make it go both ways as well and at a lively pace."

It is not just Smith's bowling that has impressed Russell so much this season. "We have been trying to tell him for years that he is a top-class bowler," he said, "and now he has started to believe it himself. The last time Courtney Walsh was not with us, he took full responsibility for the attack and he is doing it again."

Smith, 29, will concede that his lack of confidence has held him back in the past. That may have something to do with the treatment he received from his native Yorkshire, where he opened the bowling at every level up to under-19 but was never even given a chance in the second team.

Eventually he asked for his release and made his way to Gloucestershire via Exeter University, where he gained a degree in French and German. It looked like coming in handy in 1993, when he began to despair of making the grade as a professional cricketer, but he decided to give it one more season and has been improving ever since.

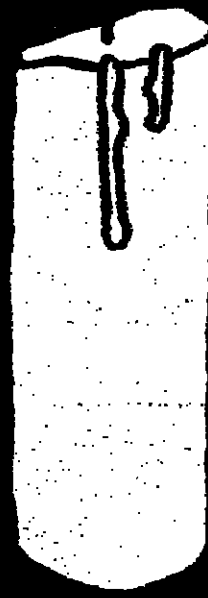


Boon: inspiration

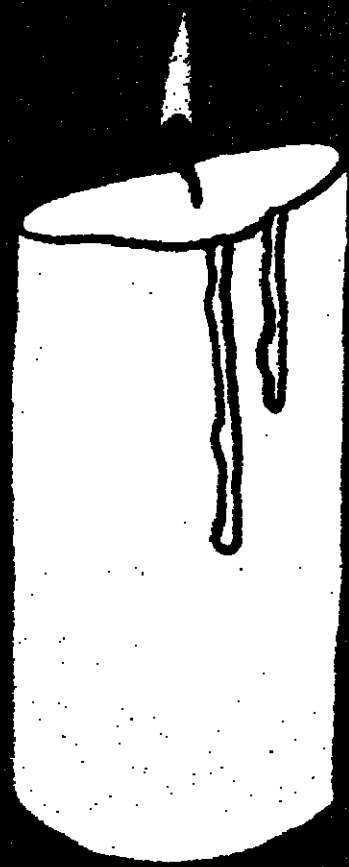
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BY RICHARD HOBSON

Warne has a busy winter schedule as Australia host New Zealand and South Africa before touring New Zealand and India. However, in a ghosted article in the *Sunday Mirror*, he stated: "We are free once the Indian tour ends in

A further delay altered the target to 143 from 23 overs, and Darren Lehmann and David Byas took Yorkshire to 57 for one in the eleventh over. However, Astle and Mark Bowen each claimed two cheap wickets as the visitors lost their way in rapidly deteriorating light.



By SIMON WILDE

Of great strength.

side worked out the pace of the pitch. After that, there was rarely a point at which someone was not working the ball around. Whitaker, Dakin, Nixon and Sutcliffe all doing so to great effect.

Somerset bowled and fielded purposefully, but could not keep the run-rate below five an over. They soon discovered what a good rate that was.

Hampshire have offered Chetan Patel, the Oxford University seam bowler, a contract for the rest of this season.

(Last year's positions in brackets)

By PAT GIBSON

BY DEREK HODGSON

Haynes and Reuben Spiring marched Worcestershire home, while Saqlain's spin brought a touch of class to the closing overs.

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CRICKET

Kent make heavy weather of victory

BY IVO TENNANT

DARLINGTON (Kent won toss): Kent (pts) beat Durham by 10 runs

AFTER their notable, even remarkable victory the previous day, Durham could not quite bring off another triumph yesterday. In what was a low-scoring contest, surprisingly so, since the ball did not deviate to any extent, Kent's expertise in limited overs cricket, was ultimately telling.

Nobody on either side scored a half-century, but there was a contribution from Graham Cowdrey that Kent could hardly have expected given that he had not batted since the start of the month and did not appear fully fit: his bowling was markedly niggardly, too. They have had better attacks than this down the years, but there is a pleasing balance about their side that augurs well for the Benson and Hedges Cup final.

But, at one stage, it was a question of which of the fast or fast-medium bowlers would effectively win the match for Durham. John Wood, stung by having been told by Geoff Arnold, the Durham bowling coach, that his performance at Fenner's a week ago amounted to "some of the worst new-ball bowling I have seen", took four for 17 and Alan Walker, a jobbing seamer, four for 18. These were their best figures in this competition.

In terms of statistics, Headley could not quite match that. Marsh sensibly gave him one, initial spell, for Kent had to take wickets rather than merely restrict their opponents' scoring. Speight was taken at first slip, Morris at point, but not before he had struck 47, and Speak, who is completely out of touch, was leg-before.

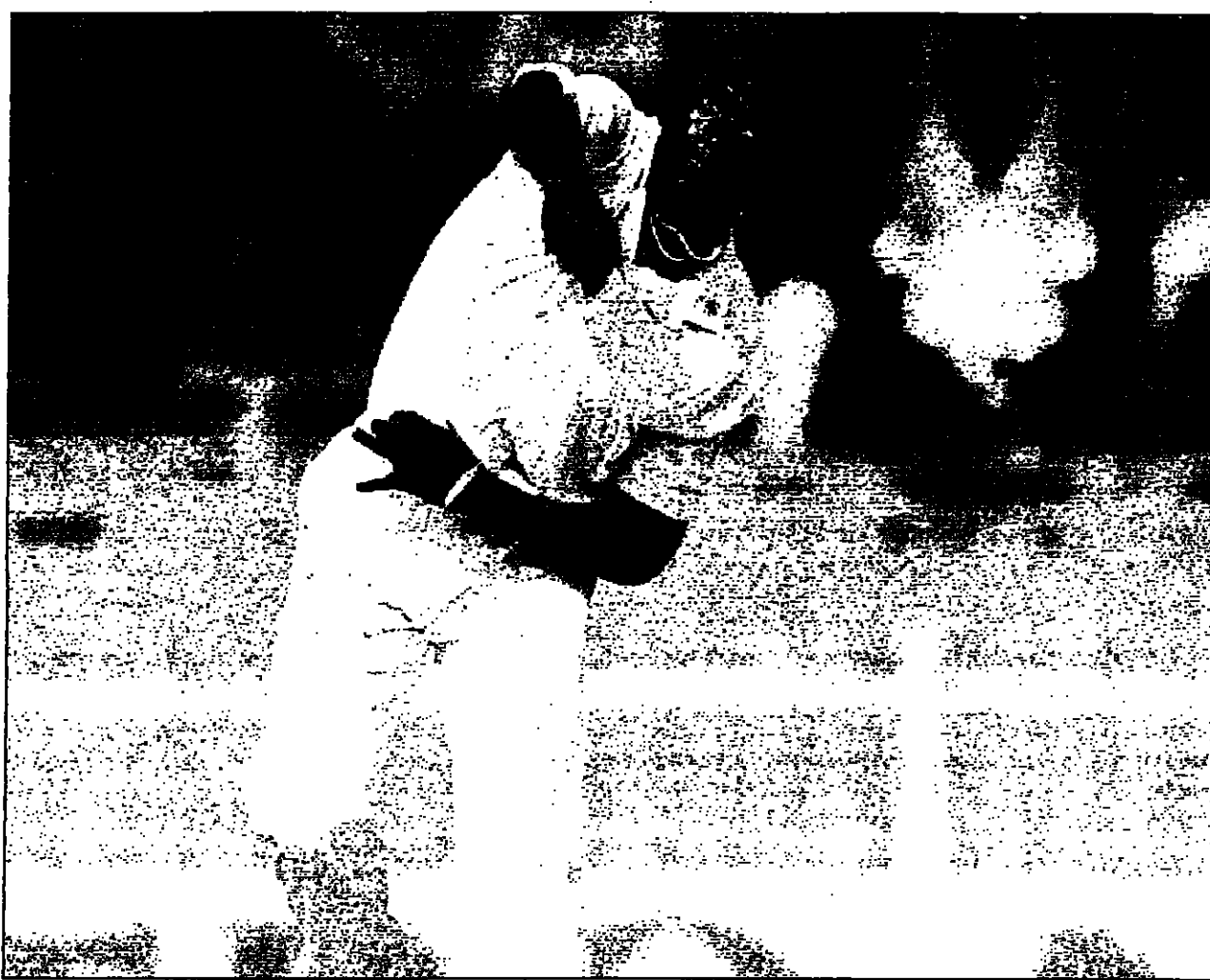
Marsh needed to find another bowler who would give him a similar return with

what was becoming an increasingly slippery ball. McCague did knock out Boon's off-stump, but Lewis and Collingwood added 41 in what, seemingly, was a match-winning partnership. The important breakthrough for Kent came when McCague came back at the Town End and, in indifferent light, yanked Lewis. Foster soon followed and there was too much for the tail to do in the closing overs.

Even so, for Durham to have beaten such opposition in the championship and to have given them a close game yesterday in a week in which Boon has hardly made a run, has to be heartening. It is not quite the same as Darlington trouncing Arsenal, but Kent came here as county champions and they were well placed in the Sunday League. They have not batted well. Cowdrey struck 40 off 62 balls, but otherwise, Kent batted as if unaware that Durham can no longer be considered also-rans.

Wood, for instance, has been working on his bowling over the past few days. That, and the criticism he has received, has evidently worked. Fulton was bowled, playing on, and Marsh, Cowdrey and McCague were held off skiers. Walker, who hitherto had figures of one for 167 in Sunday cricket this season, also maintained the ideal line.

Of the upper order, Matthew Walker pulled a ball to mid-on that was not short enough for the shot. Fleming was leg-before to Foster, swinging to leg. Wells was bowled by a slower one and Ward was leg-before when half forward. The tail contributed little, but, in the field, Kent were nothing if not resilient.



Hooper's gentle off spin proved baffling for Sri Lanka as he took career-best figures of five for 26 in the second Test

West Indies assume command

ARNOS VALE (third day of five): West Indies, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 49 runs ahead of Sri Lanka

WEST INDIES had confidently erased a first-innings deficit of 75 and began to build a solid lead when heavy rain swamped the ground on the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka yesterday.

Resuming on 19 without loss, West Indies were 124 for two at lunch, 49 runs ahead. Brian Lara was unbeaten on 27 and Floyd Reifer on 14, although play seemed unlikely for the remainder of the day as puddles formed on the outfield in the torrential rain.

Sherwin Campbell and Stuart Williams, the West Indies openers, who added a match-winning 160 in the opening match of the series, again provided an enterprising start. They added 62 aggressive runs for the first wicket in an hour before Campbell was bowled for 35.

It was Ravindra Pushpakumara, the pace

bowler, who took five wickets in the first innings, who made the breakthrough. He had been carved over backward point and on-driven through square leg for boundaries in the over, but he had his revenge by ripping out Campbell's leg stump off the inside edge. Campbell hit six boundaries and faced 35 balls.

Williams was within four of

a half-century when he was caught off bat and glove at silly point by Sanath Jayasuriya off Muralitharan. Doug Cowie, of New Zealand, consulted with Steve Bucknor, his colleague standing at square leg, to confirm that the ball carried to the fielder, who held the catch just above the ground. However, television replays

indicated that the ball may have rebounded off the right glove, which was removed from the bat.

Brian Lara, who was promoted above Reifer to the No 3 position, took a while to settle. But he started to blossom just before the interval. He had batted for an hour and a quarter, hitting just one four.

Reifer, in only his second Test, also emerged from an uncertain start and a few confident appeals with growing assurance. He hit two boundaries in his 35 minutes at the crease. Pushpakumara has taken one wicket for 42 runs off nine overs. Muralitharan has one for 34 off 11 overs.

Sri Lanka were restricted to a first innings lead of 75 on the second day by the off spin of Carl Hooper. The Sri Lankans lost their last seven wickets for 44 to be all out for 222.

Hooper took five for 26 off 13.4 overs, his best figures in first-class cricket and his third five-wicket haul in his 64th Test. Rain forced three interruptions in the day.

SCOREBOARD FROM ARNOS VALE

WEST INDIES: First Innings	
S.C. Campbell c Mahanama b Dharmasena	30
S.C. Williams c Kulkarni b Pushpakumara	35
F.L. Reifer bow b Pushpakumara	0
B.C. Lara c and b S.C. de Silva	27
D. Cowie c Jayasinghe b Muralitharan	15
R.I. Holder c Alampattu b Muralitharan	16
I.R. Bishop b Muralitharan	11
N.D. Brown bow b Pushpakumara	1
C.E.L. Ambrose b Pushpakumara	7
F.A. Rose b Muralitharan	1
S.C. de Silva not out	1
M. Muralitharan c Reifer b Hooper	4
Extras (lb 3, lb 3, nb 3)	9
Total	147

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62, 2-82	
BOWLING: S.C. de Silva 6-0-31-0; Pushpakumara 9-2-42-1; Muralitharan 11-2-34-1; Dharmasena 5-1-15-0.	
SRI LANKA: First Innings	
S.T. Jayasinghe bow b Hooper	30
M.S. Mahanama c Brown b Rose	28
M.S. Alampattu c Hooper b Rose	7
P.A. Silva c Lara b Hooper	35
A. Ranatunga c Lara b Walsh	13
S. Ranatunga c Hooper b Walsh	9
R.S. Kulkarni c Brown b Ambrose	7
H.D.P.K. Dharmasena b Hooper	10
K.R. Pushpakumara c Brown b Hooper	4
S.C. de Silva not out	1
M. Muralitharan c Reifer b Hooper	4
Extras (lb 2, lb 3, nb 10)	15
Total	222

Umpires: S.A. Bucknor (West Indies) and D.B. Cowie (New Zealand)

SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Durham v Kent

DARLINGTON (final day of four): Durham (22nd) beat Kent (4th) by 135 runs

DURHAM: First Innings 251 (J.J. B. Lewis 158 not out, M.V. Fleming 5 for 58). Second Innings 183 for 8 dec (M.P. Speight 73 not out, Fleming 4 for 34).

KENT: First Innings 167 (M.M. Bates 7 for 29). Second Innings 132.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-5, 3-21, 4-24, 5-41, 6-62, 7-116, 8-116, 9-122.

BOWLING: Brown 22-5-57-4; Bates 12-3-25-2; Walker 8-3-16-0; Bowling 11-8-10-2; Boon 5-2-18-2.

Umpires: S. Leachman and A.G.T. Whitehead

Gloucestershire v Middlesex

BRISTOL (final day of four): Middlesex (21st) beat Gloucestershire (4th) by 44 runs

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 237 (K.P. D. Pugh 79, M.R. Ramprakash 75; A.M. Smith 5 for 23).

Second Innings

P.H. Woakes c Russell b Lewis 10
J.H. Kallis c Curran b Smith 15
M.R. Ramprakash b Lewis 24
M.W. Gillingham b Lewis 4
J.C. Pooley c Alayne b Young 11
J.R. Brown c Wright b Lewis 13
A.P. Fraser b Lewis 6
K.P. D. Pugh not out 6
R.L. Johnson c Wright b Lewis 31
Extras (lb 2, lb 2)

Total (lb 2 wicket down) 124

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-37, 3-41, 4-58, 5-78, 6-78, 7-92, 8-124

BOWLING: Smith 10-2-42-1; Lewis 12-5-60-6; Young 8-0-26-1; Alayne 1-0-4-0

GLoucestershire: First Innings 99 (R.L. Johnson 4 for 27).

Second Innings

A.J. Wright c Woakes b Johnson 0
N.J. Tancor bow b Johnson 12
J. Curran b Fraser 12
M.W. Gillingham b Fraser 12
S. Young c Brown b Hewitt 1
R.C. Russell c Ramprakash b Hewitt 20
M.A. Lynch c and b Hewitt 2
T.H.C. Hancock b Bloomfield 8
M.C. East b Bloomfield 20
A.M. Smith not out 41
J. Lewis c Gillingham b Johnson 12
Extras (lb 4, lb 2, nb 6)

Total 218

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-27, 3-35, 4-60, 5-109, 6-109, 7-134, 8-160, 9-169

LANCASHIRE v Glamorgan

LIVERPOOL (final day of four): Glamorgan (18th) beat Lancashire (1st) by 221 runs

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S.P. James not out 152
K. Morris c Hogg b Austin 24
A. Dale not out 18
Extras (lb 6, lb 6, lb 2, nb 2)

Total (1 wicket down, 60.1 overs) 272

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62, 2-82

BOWLING: Marsh 14-3-32-0; Crapple 12-2-31-0; Austin 15-7-21-1; Keedy 5-1-24-0; Chappell 10-2-24-0; Yones 1-0-4-0; Lloyd 5-5-59-0; Wood 4-1-0-38-0

Second Innings

N.T. Wood bow b Wagar 0
S.P. Thomas bow b Wagar 5
G. Chappell c b Wagar 0
M.A. Lynch c and b Wagar 0
G.D. Lloyd c Shaw b Wagar 7
M. Graham c Shaw b Wagar 17
D. Austin not out 17
N.W. K. Hogg b Shaw Wagar 0
S.P. Thomas not out 0
G. Keedy c Cascar b Wagar 0
Extras (lb 4, lb 2, nb 2)

Total 51

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-4, 3-13, 4-17, 5-27, 6-38, 7-50, 8-50, 9-51

BOWLING: Wagar Youngs 7-1-25-7; Wadell 7-3-21-3

Umpires: J.H. Hampshire and V.A. Holder

Northamptonshire v Hampshire

NORTHAMPTON (final day of four): Northamptonshire (3rd) drew with Hampshire (7th)

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 405 for 8 dec (M.L. Hayden 150, R.A. Smith 74, J.D. James 56; J.P. Taylor 6 for 51). Second Innings

forfeited.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-33

BOWLING: Milburn 7-1-27-0; Renshaw 7-2-13-2; Smith 2-0-38-0; Stephenson 1-0-6-0

Second Innings

M.B. Lloyd c Hayden b Bost 38
R.J. Warren b James 21
K.M. Curran bow b Bost 28
R.J. Bailey c James b Bost 51
T.C. Walton c Renshaw b Smith 39
D.J. G. Sales c Renshaw b Udal 36
J.N. Snape c Lacey b Udal 10
J.G. Hughes not out 5
S.P. Thomas not out 1
S.A.J. Brown not out 1
Extras (lb 6, lb 3, nb 10)

Total (9 wickets) 19

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-104, 3-158, 4-199, 5-255, 6-270, 7-281, 8-292, 9-298

BOWLING: Milburn 9-2-42-0; Renshaw 14-0-55-2; James 9-1-49-1; Bost 11-1-40-3; Stephenson 6-0-33-0; Udal 17-2-69-3

Umpires: J. C. Baddestone and N.T. Plews

Somerset v Leicestershire

BATH (final day of four): Somerset (7th) drew with Leicestershire (11th)

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 442 for 8 dec (J.J. Whalley 133 not out, J.J. Scuffield 112; V.J. Wells 70; D.J. Moody 50)

Second Innings

M.N. Latham c Scuffield b Mills 6
P.D. Bowler bow b Mills 30
P.C. Hollaway bow b Mills 18
R.J. Harden b Mills 33
K.A. Parsons c Nixon b Orlind 25
R.J. Turner c Nixon b Orlind 38
G.D. Rose c Nixon b Mully 8
J.D. Kerr c Nixon b Mills 25
Mullaly c Nixon b Mills 4
K.J. Shira b Mills 8
A.P. van Tonder not out 0
Extras (lb 5, lb 13, w 8, nb 10)

Total (5 wickets) 269

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-42, 3-98, 4-112, 5-180, 6-201, 7-227, 8-231, 9-245

BOWLING: Mills 22-5-61-5; Mullaly 22-3-80-1; Orlind 19-1-69-3; Plews 2-0-0-0; Johnson 3-0-15-0

Second Innings

M.N. Latham bow b Mills 0
P.D. Bowler c Wells b Mills 6
P.C. Hollaway c Maddy b Orlind 10
K.A. Parsons not out 36
R.J. Turner not out 46
Extras (lb 11, lb 1, nb 16)

Total (3 wickets) 146

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-27, 3-31

BOWLING: Mills 8-4-24-2; Mullaly 10-1-29-0; Orlind 7-1-21-1; Wells 2-0-6-0; Plews 1-0-0-0; Johnson 2-0-3-0; Scuffield 1-0-12-0

Umpires: J.C. Baddestone and G.I. Burgess

No play

DERBY: Sussex 200 for 9 dec; Derbyshire 223-9 (P.P. Charles 85 not out, C.J. Adkins 55; R.J. Kirtley 4 for 58, V.C. Drake 4 for 55). Derbyshire (8th) drew with Sussex (8th)

TRENT BRIDGE: Yorkshire 364 (D. Byes 128, D.S. Lehmann 82, D.D. Mason 82; K.P. Burns 6 for 51); Nottinghamshire 145 for 7 (C. White 4 for 51). Nottinghamshire (10th) drew with Yorkshire (10th)

WORCESTER: Surrey 482 for 9 dec (J.D. Randle 126, A.D. Brown 121, S.R. Lampard 4 for 104); Worcestershire 81-1. Worcestershire (7th) drew with Surrey (7th)

FOOTBALL

Asprilla ready to return to his former club

BY JOHN GOODBODY

AS Faustino Asprilla was preparing to leave Newcastle United yesterday, Peter Beardsley announced that he wanted to stay at the FA Carling Premiership club.

Asprilla is ready to return to his former Italian club, Parma, because he wants the guarantee of first-team football to secure a place in the Colombia team for the 1998 World Cup finals. Although Kenny Dalglish has played Asprilla more regularly than did his managerial predecessor at St James' Park, Kevin Keegan, the Colombian has not been an automatic selection. Nor does the prospect of Newcastle playing in the European Cup Champions' League next season offer a big enough temptation for him to stay on Tyneside — Parma have also qualified for the Champions' League after finishing second in Serie A.

Gustavo Mascardi, Asprilla's agent, is reported to be negotiating a deal with Parma while the player himself told an Italian newspaper: "My only regret will be disappointing the Newcastle supporters. They have been magnificent to me."

Although Beardsley was on the bench for the last nine games of last season, the former Liverpool, Everton and England player was adamant yesterday that he wanted to remain at the club in the autumn of his career. Hull City and Stoke City have reportedly tried to tempt Beardsley with a role as player-manager, but the 36-year-old said: "I would like to stay on at Newcastle and it's up to them to make me an offer. I think I have a couple of years left playing top-flight football."

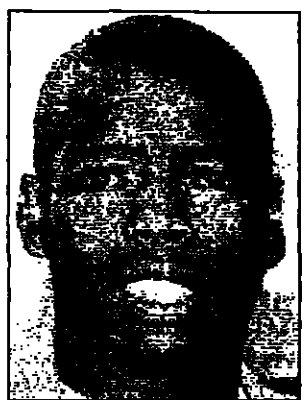
If not with Newcastle, then Beardsley may do so with Bolton Wanderers, who have also expressed an interest in signing him.

Argentina, who had two players sent off and were involved in a large-scale brawl on their last visit to Bolivia less than three months ago, were involved in another violent match when they went out of the Copa America on Saturday. The Argentinians had

three players sent off as they suffered a shock 2-1 quarter-final defeat to Peru.

Their previous defeat had been in April's World Cup qualifier in La Paz, when they lost 2-1 to Bolivia. On that occasion, two Argentinians were sent off, the goalkeeper, Ignacio Gonzalez, head-butted an opponent in an incident missed by match officials and the entire team became involved in a brawl with members of the Bolivian bench. The fight, which needed police intervention, held up play for ten minutes.

This time, the incident that sparked the violence occurred in the 72nd minute. Argentina, trailing 2-0, were awarded a penalty, which was converted by Marcello Gallardo, but



Asprilla: keen to move

Miguel Miranda, the Peru goalkeeper, refused to give the ball back and a brawl ensued. Gallardo and Eduardo Berizzo were both sent off and were later joined by Zapata, who received a red card for a second bookable offence.

Although Argentina took a weakened team to the Copa America, their coach, Daniel Passarella, said of the defeat by Peru: "This team is the Argentinian national team. All of these players are top-flight players. We were eliminated by our own failings. However, when I took over, I said the priority was to qualify for the World Cup, which we are doing. Not to qualify for the World Cup would be failure."

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BARCLAYCARD

Notification of an Interest Rate change.

Barclaycard announces a change in the monthly interest rate.

The monthly interest rate charged will be increased from 1.61% to 1.65% coming into effect from 1st July 1997.

Clause 3 (iii) of the Barclaycard and Clause 3 (ii) of the Barclaycard Reserve Conditions of Use are amended accordingly.

The monthly interest rate for Barclaycard Gold and Barclaycard Gold Reserve will be increased from 1.485% to 1.525% coming into effect from 1st July 1997.

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RUGBY LEAGUE: BRISBANE COACH WARNS OF NEED FOR CHANGE IN BRITISH GAME AFTER YET ANOTHER HUMILIATION IN AUSTRALIA

Blue Sox wear red faces after record loss

By Christopher Irvine

A 76-0 drubbing yesterday by Brisbane Broncos, the Australian Super League leaders, left Halifax Blue Sox, who conceded 204 points in their three matches in Australia, reflecting on the biggest defeat in their history. As well as self-recrimination, it prompted Wayne Bennett, the Brisbane coach, to spell out a number of hard truths about rugby league in Great Britain.

Halifax feebly conceded 15 tries. "I take no joy from such an easy win," Bennett said. "It was almost embarrassing. The British administrators need to take a long hard look at themselves. It says something that six English Super League coaches were sacked before the season was half over. That shows real problems in the English game. The buck shouldn't stop with the coaches. It's the administrators that should be held accountable."

"Administration is the key to it all. If they don't make some changes to themselves, then they'll never solve the problems below them. I see Joe Lydon [the Rugby Football League technical director] has been appointed to a position in England to review everything. I hope that Joe doesn't listen to those close to him, but those in need of the most help."

Whilst scathing of his players and their commitment, John Pendlebury, the Halifax coach, said one of the problems was recruiting individuals of sufficient standard. He criticised the way that clubs have sought out Australian players, who could not make it in either the Australasian Super League and Australian Rugby League competitions.

"That's only a quick fix," Pendlebury said. "Coaches inherit problems and unless they get instant results, they are skating on thin ice."

Halifax have three weeks to prepare for the return legs against Canterbury, Canberra and Brisbane. Karl Harrison, the club captain, said: "We have learnt the hard way. We now have to look at ourselves in the mirror and ask ourselves how we are going to regroup. That's

going to be a truly mammoth task."

Yesterday's rout at ANZ Stadium could have been worse. Darren Lockyer missed seven relatively easy conversion attempts and Bennett spared Halifax the problems of coping with Allan Langer, Kevin Walters and Steve Renouf, his three main strike players, in the second half. By the break, Brisbane were already cruising 42-0 and were well on their way to exceeding their previous highest score, 56-6, against South Sydney in 1995.

Darren Smith and Wendell Sailor both scored hat-tricks. Renouf triggered the onslaught in the fourth minute and Anthony Mundine, his centre partner, scored the first of his two tries a few minutes later. The fact that Halifax never looked like scoring compounded their misery as Brisbane repeated their feat against Wigan in their previous championship outing of not having a point put past them.

Before the St Helens game against Penrith last night, Australian sides had rattled up 330 points and outscored the motley European contingent by 52 tries to 15 in the third round of competition. Overall, Europe trail by 24 wins to three.

In Townsville on Saturday, Salford Reds held North Queensland Cowboys 8-8 at half-time, but then conceded seven tries in a 44-8 reverse. The awarding of eight straight penalties to the home side by Brian Grant brought a complaint from Andy Gregory, the Salford coach. "No team is going to win against an Australian side when the referee gives you absolutely nothing in the second half," Gregory said.

Andy Platt, the Salford captain, was more circumspect in his judgment. "We put the Cowboys under pressure in the first half and reaped the benefits, but after half-time we went to pieces." It was the old familiar story of the British clubs. Our biggest problem is that we can't concentrate for the full 80 minutes. We can go 40 to 50 minutes and then we start to fall off tackles."



Farrell, right, tries to get to grips with a Canberra opponent during Wigan's latest setback in the world club championship in Australia

Wigan stare at yawning chasm in class

Canberra Raiders.....56
Wigan Warriors.....22

By Christopher Irvine

AS IF enough assumptions have not been made to appear foolish already in the past three weeks, the one about Great Britain remaining competitive against Australia at international level, even though British clubs are being humiliated in the Visa world club championship, looked somewhat forlorn yesterday at Bruce Stadium. Given that Wigan might contribute half or more of the Britain side for the three-match home series in November and Canberra possibly the same for Australia, the caning the Warriors took from the championship favourites illustrated starkly differences in standards, quality and attitude.

Canberra's domination, coming close to beating Wigan's record 58-3 defeat by Leeds in 1972, would be explained too simply as another off day for the Broncos. Eric Hughes, the Wigan coach, said: "The problem with some players is that they think they are better than they are and, when they come here and get their backsides kicked, it's one way of telling them that they've got to work harder. Some will run away, but eventually we'll get winners."

That Wigan "won" the second half 16-14 showed that spirit had not been crushed entirely. Self-inflicted wounds and the ferocity with which Canberra hounded them and scored at more than a point a minute in the first half left pride as the one commodity intact after a beating to match the one meted out six days earlier by Brisbane Broncos.

It might be assumed that Canberra

and Brisbane will find Wigan far less accommodating in next month's return matches in England, but in that case they will have to under-perform significantly while Wigan summon powers that looked beyond their capability in Canberra once elementary errors had cost them two tries in the opening six minutes. Brett Mullins intercepted a rash pass by Paul and set off on an 85-metre dash, then Koloi, on a troubled full debut at full back — he was later moved to the wing — was slow to retrieve a kick by Daley, slipped and allowed Wiki to control the ball for the first of his two first-half tries.

Although Hall scrambled a try back, Canberra tormented Wigan with their speed and outrageous confidence. As well as eight goals, Funnell side-stepped Koloi and Robinson in furnishing Clyde, his back-row partner, with his first try. Koloi could not stop

Wiki a second time and, under pressure from Mullins, Nadruku was able to score the simplest of touch-downs, before Westley added another. Priddis, Clyde and Nadruku each collected second tries, but Wigan, to their relief, more than matched their hosts' after the break. Radlinski replied with a fine individual effort and precision kicks into the in-goal area by Farrell, who never gave up trying, provided him with a second, and Connolly another. Although too late, it was a little to savour on the long journey home.

SCORES: Canberra: Tries: Wiki (2), Priddis (2), Clyde (2), Nadruku (2), Mullins, Westley, Goals: Funnell (5). Wigan: Tries: Radlinski (2), Hall, Connolly, Goals: Farrell (3). CANBERRA RAIDERS: K Nagas, N Nadruku, B Mullins, R Wiki, J Croker, L Daley, R Stuart, D Pongia, L Priddis, B Hedderley, D Westley, D Funnell, B Clyde, Substitutes: S Woodford, B Kennedy, D Boyle, J Summham. WIGAN WARRIORS: P Koloi, J Robinson, G Connolly, R Radlinski, A Johnson, N Paul, A Smith, L Harrison, M Hall, T O'Connor, M Cassidy, S Houghton, A Farrell. Substitutes: S Holgate, S Lester, D Connors, G Talbot. Referee: S Galt.

Paris well placed to secure role in play-offs

By Christopher Irvine

THE quasi-Australian Paris Saint-Germain outfit flew the tattered European flag in a 24-0 rout of Perth Reds, who slumped to a second surprise world club championship defeat at the Charley Stadium on Saturday night.

As well as being only the third defeat of an Australian side in the competition, it was the first home victory of the season for Paris. They are now at the top of European pool B and favourites to secure the play-off place against the fourth-placed finishers in pool A.

Paris had shown signs of resistance in their defeat by Hunter Mariners, but there was no way through for a tired, frustrated and ultimately embarrassed Perth, who lost at Sheffield Eagles and only narrowly edged out Castleford in their other group games.

Fabien Devicchi was the token French try-scorer. Jason Eade, the Australian centre, scored two and David Lomax and Dean Bird the others. Matt O'Connor landed two

Full results and tables Page 28

goals on a satisfying evening for Andy Goodway, the new English coach of Paris. "We worked really hard, especially on defence, and got a couple of lucky breaks," Goodway said.

After the hidings taken by Salford, Wigan and Halifax, whose 76-0 defeat by Brisbane Broncos yesterday was the heaviest of a European side so far, London Broncos have the last opportunity in the first phase of group games in Australia, at Sydney-based Canterbury, today to relieve some of the acute embarrassment.

Apart from Perth, Canterbury are the only Australian side to have lost to European opposition.

Whether London can repeat Wigan's feat will depend on whether the mental scars of their previous mauling by Canberra have healed and the influence that Shaun Edwards can exert on his return.

Warrington, having been heavily beaten by Cronulla and Penrith already, tonight have the task of preventing a clean sweep of three away victories by Auckland Warriors.

SPEEDWAY

Gustafsson ignores break

By Tony Hoare

HENKA GUSTAFSSON, the world No 5, is determined to ride in the German Grand Prix in two weeks, despite breaking his leg in a track crash last week. Gustafsson, a former Swedish champion, fractured his left leg in two places just below the knee while riding for his Swedish club, Indianerna, last Tuesday.

But the 26-year-old, who gave up riding in the British League three years ago, is set to defy the pain barrier and ride in the third round of the world championship grand prix at Landslut on July 5.

Coping with pain will not be a new experience for Gustafsson, who rode with a hand injury in the Swedish Grand Prix at Linköping last weekend, but could only man-

age fourteenth place and is now tenth in the overall standings.

"If the pain is gone I am going to try to ride," Gustafsson said from his home in Sweden at the weekend. "I don't know if I am going to be able to ride through it, but it is my left leg and that is not the one we use so much riding speedway."

"The doctors say it will take seven to eight weeks to heal, but I do not think it will take that long. I think it will take about two weeks."

It is important for Gustafsson to ride in Germany, otherwise he will find it increasingly hard to score enough points to ensure his place in the series next year, with only the top eight guaranteed a starting role.

"Hopefully, I will be ready in time for Germany, but I have never broken my leg before so I don't know how bad the pain will be," he said. "It is a clean break and it is pinned and screwed rather than in plaster, so I can move my knee."

"It depends on whether I will be able to use my leg just a little bit because I know it will not be 100 per cent."

"It is going to be very hard, but if I can ride in this meeting and then finish off with three good rounds, I should be OK for next year."

Should Gustafsson's bid fail, his place will be taken by Sam Ermolenko, the 1993 world champion, who lost his place for the year after finishing fifth in the final-chance qualifying meeting last year.

MOTOR SPORT

McRae scorches to clear lead in China

COLIN McRAE continued to set the pace on the second leg of the inaugural Rally of China and finished the day in a commanding position at the head of the leaderboard.

His Subaru team-mate and double Asia-Pacific Rally champion, Kenneth Eriksson, is on McRae's heels, 1min 37sec behind the Scot, and the duo are perfectly poised for a victorious one-two after the concluding five stages today.

Despite having competed in China only once before, McRae and his co-driver, Nicky Grist, steadily increased their lead yesterday, winning six of the eight stages over a distance of 88.6 miles in the Huairou district, north of Beijing, in 1hr 35min 42sec. McRae's time was more than two minutes faster than

the one he clocked over the same course on Saturday. "It just shows you what practice can do to your times," he said.

"I am obviously very happy with the lead we've got now — it's not often that you find yourself in such a fortunate position — so we have taken the opportunity to try different suspension settings and tyres throughout the day," McRae said.

"This is secondary to the event, obviously, and we won't be doing anything to jeopardise our position. Tomorrow the intention is to be on the podium in the No 1 position."

Thirteen cars were eliminated from the first day's stages which were held over a hilly course and in temperatures of 97F.

CYCLING

Yates sets gold standard

By Peter Bryan

A DETERMINED Sean Yates, who last won a British time-trial title in 1980, yesterday made the victory come-back he has always threatened after a 16-year continental road racing career, with the gold medal in the national 50-mile championship.

Yates, at 37, now races only for pleasure: most of his days are taken up with his job as a self-employed gardener and training has to be done in his leisure time.

Surprisingly, Yates, although a former Tour de France stage winner and overall race leader, had only previously ridden one 50-mile trial in Britain.

In rain, high winds, and on a course with 40 traffic roundabouts to be negotiated, he revelled in the tough going

and set the winning time of 1hr 43min 33sec, a new course record.

His spur was Harry Walker, the championship favourite, who started five minutes ahead. Yates planned a fast start, aiming to make up time and gain a psychological advantage. He achieved that, covering the first five miles 40 seconds faster than Walker, who was later to suffer a puncture.

Yates kept the pressure on and went through the 25-mile check with a 2min 2sec lead over Gethin Butler, the former British all-round champion, and a further one second advantage over Geoff Platts.

That proved to be the finishing order: Butler recorded 1hr 45min 52sec, as Platts faded to 1hr 47min 14sec for third spot.

"The conditions suited me," Yates said, "and I made the most of it. You become something of a hard man earning a living on the Continent."

The 100-mile championship next month is his next big event, even though he has only ridden the distance once before.

Rob Hayles, the national track champion, was flown home by air ambulance from Milan at the weekend, complaining of an irregular heart rate. He received treatment at an Italian hospital and was unable to ride for Britain in the World Cup series.

Today, he will be examined at the Olympic Medical Centre at Northwick Park and is unlikely to compete in the British road race championship in Wales next weekend.

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New faces help leading lights to first European Cup victory for eight years as captain says farewell

Supporting cast carries Britain to team success

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

LINFORD CHRISTIE'S reign as the Great Britain men's team captain ended here yesterday as it had begun, with him lifting the European Cup. After winning the trophy three years in succession, Germany succumbed on home soil to a British team unforgiving in its pursuit of every point that appeared within reach.

Though Christie, by the narrowest of margins, retained his unbeaten European Cup record, this was much more than a one-man show. There was more to it, as well, than a succession of victories by Britain's established world-class athletes.

Yes, Christie won, Jonathan Edwards, Steve Backley, Roger Black too, but Robert Hough?

Hough, predicted to finish sixth, won the 3,000 metres steeplechase by outstripping Alessandro Lambroschini, the European champion, Olympic bronze medal-winner and unbeaten in his four previous European Cup steeplechase races. "If you had told me last week I would beat Lambroschini and win it, I would have said you were barking mad," Hough said.

His was the performance that clearly signposted Britain towards lifting the European Cup for the first time since 1989, when Christie was first made captain. The British team then drove, accelerator to

the floor, towards its destiny, scoring 118 points, with Germany second on 105 and Russia third on 104.

Asked to name his previous best victory, Hough had to think hard. "AAAs juniors," came the eventual reply.

This was the crowning moment of the Yorkshire influence. Mark Sesay, third in the 800 metres, Chris Rawlinson, fifth in the 400 metres hurdles, John Maycock, fourth in the 1,500 metres, Andrew Pearson, fourth in the 5,000 metres, each has a Yorkshire county or club affiliation. Each scored at least as well, if not better, than expected.

Results 39

Sesay and Hough were making their Great Britain debuts and had joined each other in getting anxious. "We agreed we were not experienced athletes at this level and we were both nervous," Hough said.

Sesay, whose progress from the junior ranks had been impeded by injury over several years, admitted after running a mature two-lap race: "I was a nervous wreck." In less than two minutes he was transformed. "I am going to be a world-class 800 metres runner," he said.

He looked not at all nervous and utterly confident as he held the inside track, unafraid to stand his ground against Vebjorn Rodal, the Olympic champion from Norway, and Nico Motchebon, the German who relieved Sebastian Coe of his European indoor 800 metres record. In a tactical race, Rodal won on the sprint, in 1min 47.54sec, followed closely by Motchebon and Sesay.

The Briton thus took the worthwhile scalps of Giuseppe d'Urso, from Italy, and Andrey Loginov, from Russia. When Sesay ran 1min 46.03sec this season, it was his fastest time for six years.

"Coming to this level at such short notice, I was full of uncertainty and my plan was just to get involved," Sesay said. "To finish half a second behind the Olympic champion, I have got to be pleased. Before the race, I was scared of coming last."

Fourth at the end of the first day, though within 2½ points of Spain, the leading nation, Britain could not have had a better start yesterday. Victories for Edwards, in the triple jump and Backley, in the javelin, hoisted the team into a lead which they never lost.

Edwards produced his two best jumps of the season in the opening two rounds, 17.39 and 17.74 metres, by which time he was so certain that he would not be caught that he passed on his last two jumps. This, remember, was the first time that a showpiece international athletics occasion has limited competitors in the horizontal jumps and throws to four rounds rather than six.

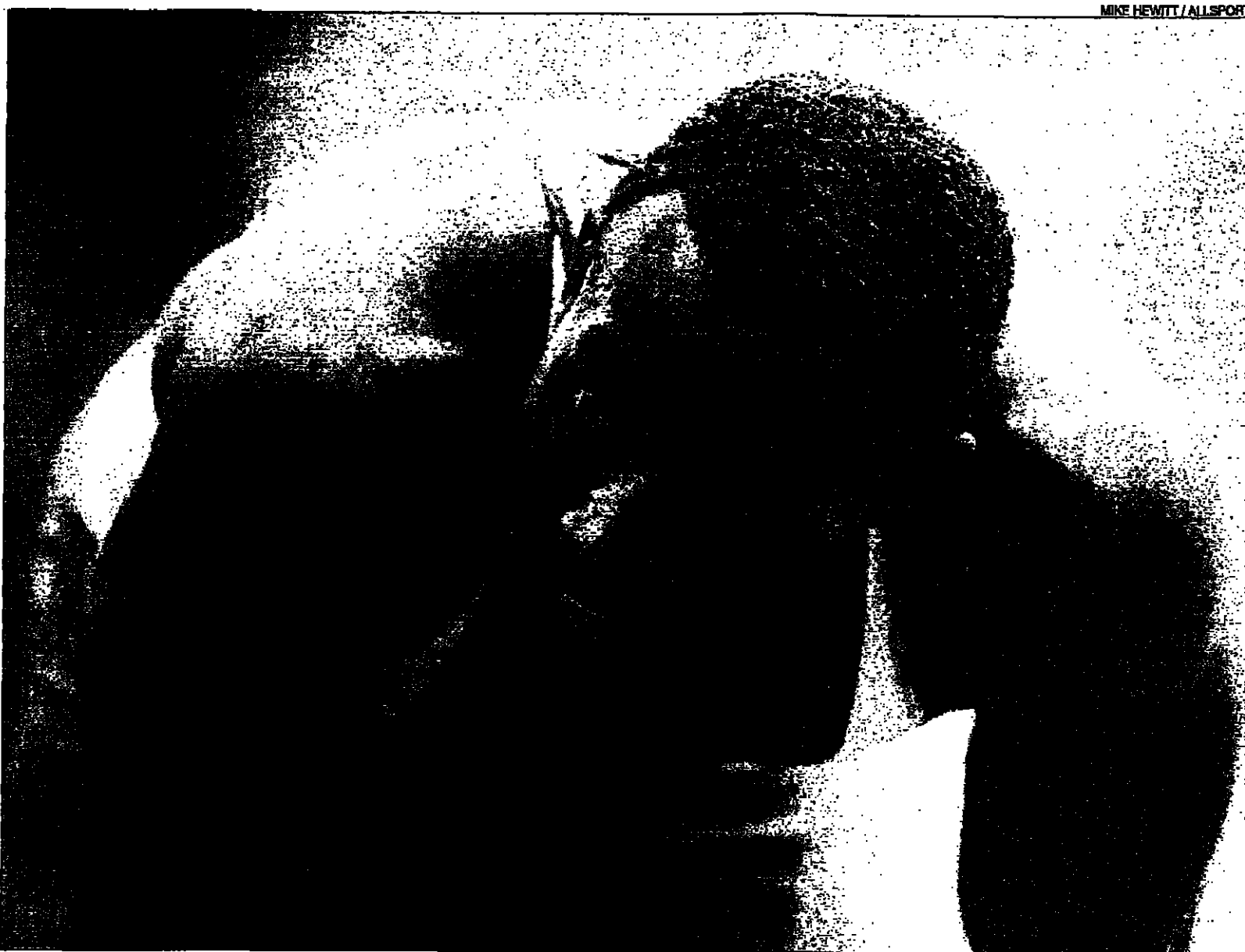
Backley, too, made an immediate impression, his first-round throw securing the maximum eight points with 86.86 metres. Sesay and Hough were next on. Sesay had maintained Britain's lead and now the pressure was on Hough. "When I looked at the scoreboard at the start, I saw we were ahead by 1½ points, with the Germans second."

As Lambroschini approached the water ahead of Hough, the Briton took flight, clearing the barrier instead of putting one foot on it and springing off. It brought him level. Only the last barrier to go and, while neither athlete took it cleanly, Hough recovered from his brush with the wood to win in 8min 35.03sec.

Colin Jackson's defeat by Florian Schwarhoff in the 110 metres hurdles was a minor setback. Christie dead-heated with Giorgios Panayiotopoulos in the 200 metres, the closest he has come to defeat in 13 European Cup individual races. A splendid second place from Robert Weir in the discus maintained the momentum.

The winning points were secured by Pearson, who had interrupted his honeymoon to be here. Pearson needed only to finish ahead of the German vest, which he succeeded in doing, to leave the 4x400 metres as an academic last event. Britain won it anyway.

"The sport has had its detractors and beatings, some of it unwarranted, but ours is still the best performing sport in the country," Malcolm Arnold, the Great Britain head coach, said. However, the day was tinged with sadness for Arnold. It was in this stadium that John Akli-Bua, coached by Arnold, won the 400 metres hurdles Olympic gold medal in 1972. Arnold learnt of Akli-Bua's death yesterday.



Christie takes a moment to recover after the dead heat in his final race for Great Britain, the European Cup 200 metres in Munich yesterday

Christie approaches the final frontier

Linford Christie peeled off his Great Britain vest for the last time, folded it, and placed it in a black backpack. Oblivious to the scum of humanity that surged around him as he sheltered from the rain in the tunnel at the Olympiastadion in Munich yesterday afternoon, he was patently at peace with himself. Pride, finally, overcame prejudice.

"Winning isn't everything," he mused, despite Britain's first European Cup victory for eight years. "There are more things to live for."

"I wish I was 16 again, but I'll never be. I suppose I've just got to be grateful for the little time I was given. I've lived for the type of ovation I've had here. It makes me feel all the time I've spent training, all the work I've done, has been worthwhile."

Christie yesterday was unrecognisable from the ogre of tabloid mythology, a contemplative figure who suddenly threw his head back and laughed at the artlessness of the adulation. He blew kisses to two schoolgirls who had passed his image on each corner of a union flag, which was liberally sprinkled with crystals of gold paint. Then, to a pre-pubescent chorus of "Linford, Linford" he leapt a crash barrier and began to sign autographs.

"These are the real people,"

he said before the crush forced him to retreat. "We've got to find time for them. They are part of the family of our sport. This, to me, is the best send-off I can have."

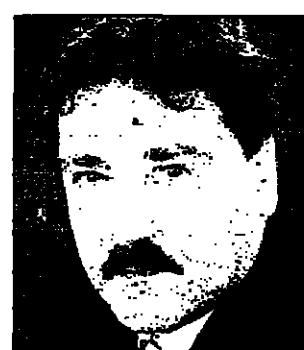
The youthful exuberance washing over him launched him into what was not so much a valedictory speech but a series of homilies.

"Stay clean and you'll last a long time... train hard and don't do drugs... sport's not all about money, it's about fun... be nice because the people you meet on the way up will meet you on the way down... if you can make one person smile, you've done a lot... if you don't think you're the best, you won't be..."

The words poured out in a stream of consciousness that merely highlighted the conflict that Christie creates. His critics studied each statement for contradictions. His colleagues recognise the simplicity of the sentiments. Where Christie is concerned, there is precious little middle ground.

Only his status as one of the greatest athletes of his generation is unchallengeable. This weekend's sprint double, completed, rather than compromised, by yesterday's dead heat with Giorgios Panayiotopoulos, of Greece, in the 200 metres, maintained his unbeaten European Cup record. He has won 11 major championships, yet the purity

MICHAEL CALVIN



In Munich

of his performances is often obscured by perceptions of his personality.

"Linford is quite unique as a person and as an athlete," Malcolm Arnold, the Great Britain head coach, said. "His public persona, which takes a bit of a battering because he no longer has any trust in the media, gives no idea of what he is really like."

"The private Linford is one of the nicest men I've met. He's kind, compassionate, available to any athlete."

"When people look at him, there's a temptation to judge him by the trappings of his success. He's immaculately

turned out, has a nice car and a comfortable lifestyle. It is important we acknowledge what got him those things. He was born with a huge talent, but the way he has worked to make the most of that talent is a great compliment to him."

This weekend was typically turbulent. Christie refused to appear at the launch of the new Great Britain kit and was in monosyllabic mood during his only promotional chore, an official pre-event press conference. Only when the Cup had been won was he prepared to articulate his anger. His target, the media, surprised no one.

"What saddens me is that people are prepared to label athletes, and not bother to find out how hard they work," he said. "They're never there to see the sweat, tears and the toil."

There was a sense of sadness in his demeanour, which reinforced the vision of an athlete reaching sport's final frontier, retirement.

Christie sees his future in hosting international coaching clinics, a natural complement to his work with such promising youngsters as Jamie Baulch, the 400 metres runner.

"Time will tell whether Linford sticks with it," Arnold said. "Coaching is different from competing. It's a selfless

job which requires a distinctive talent. You learn your sports first, over a fairly long period."

Baulch's admiration for his mentor is, predictably enough, unstinting. "To be honest, I was shocked how good he is," he said of Christie. "He analyses things so well and he uses his experience to reassure me."

"His ideas are good but strange as it may seem, our best form of communication is usually unspoken. Just being in his presence motivates me."

"He knows what I'm going through. I was very stressed up after the world indoor championships, running around like an idiot trying to please everyone, but as soon as he spoke to me, I felt serene again. He just said: 'I was exactly the same as you once. Pick out the things you need and disregard the rest.'"

"People do get the wrong impression of him. When he addressed the team this weekend, he was very shy. He might come across as a bit of a hard man, but he's very humble."

"I've seen him with his new baby. He's 37 and he's happy. Why should he feel the need to put his neck on the line again and again?"

Athletics offers a man like Christie an emotional anchor. He has been speaking of retirement since the 1990 world championships, but acknowledges that it will soon leave an intimidating vacuum in his life. "In a way I'm glad that this last race for Britain is over," he said yesterday. "I've no regrets but I will miss the camaraderie of it all."

"What I really like is that this gives me the chance to prove I'm the best in the world at what I do. Very few people have that privilege."

The mood has been set. Christie collected the European Cup, conducted the national anthem from the winners' podium, and then plunged into the crowd. He was surrounded by his people, people who cherish an athlete's purity of purpose. He was in his element and showed no inclination to leave.



Hough celebrates victory in the 3,000 metres steeplechase

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POLO

Black Bears fall to classy Isla Carroll

A RECORD audience turned out at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, yesterday to witness the final of the high-goal Alfred Dunhill Queen's Cup which has been challenged by 12 teams during the past three weeks (John Watson writes). It was to John Goodman, of Palm Beach, Florida, that the Queen presented the cup, for his team, Isla Carroll, who beat the Black Bears, of Urs Schwarzenbach, 13-10.

This fast and exciting encounter was notable for the number of players who looked better than their handicaps, despite the dreadful weather, and for the high proportion of thoroughbred American ponies on both sides. Black Bears being piloted on Mike Azzaro,

the ten-handicapper, from the United States. Isla Carroll, power-based on Memo Gracida, of Mexico, and Fite Merlos, of Argentina, stayed in the lead throughout and were ahead 8-4 by trading-in time.

A goal from Azzaro reduced the Black Bears' deficit to 10-8 by the end of the fifth chukka, but Merlos, who scored a total of nine goals, and Gracida made certain of victory for Isla Carroll.

The Queen presented the prize for the best playing pony in favour of Goodman's eight-year-old mare, Sue Ellen. ISLA CARROLL: 1, M Parnell (1); 2, P Merlos (10); 3, M Gracida (10); Black: 1, Goodman (1). BLACK BEARS: 1, U Schwarzenbach (1); 2, T Fisher (9); 3, M Azzaro (10); Black: 1, Fisher (9).

THE LOMBARD TOP CLUB TROPHY '97 - UPDATE

Now in its third year, it's already the biggest and best Pro-Am golfing event in Europe. In 1997 over 100,000 club golfers from 1,100 clubs competed in qualifying rounds for the right to partner their club professional in one of 16 Regional Finals. The 16 winning pairings gain an expenses paid trip to the Grand Final in the Algarve on 3-7 October.

Lombard, the event's sponsor, is the UK's largest finance house which advances around £150 million each week to their business and personal customers - many of whom compete in the Trophy.

A CRUEL GAME

The first Regional Final, at Beau Desert Golf Club in Staffordshire, showed just how cruel golf can be with Chesterfield Golf Club and Guernsey's La Grande Mare losing out on a countback to Drayton Park after shooting an impressive five under 65 on the testing course.

Drayton Park's Professional Mike Passmore teamed up with contract cleaning company boss, Doug Macdonald to win their place in the Algarve sun.

LATE BIRDIE BLITZ

The old adage, 'It's never over till the fat lady sings' was never more apt

than at Kings Norton in the South Midlands Regional Final.

Former Midland PGA Champion Graham Fair and amateur Rob Shadden were just about to pop the champagne corks and start thinking about sun tan lotion when the penultimate pairing of the day, Chipping Norton's Derek Craik Jr and amateur Danny Hicks, finished with six birdies in the last seven holes.

The two pairings were level on 10 under but a countback on the

last nine confirmed that Craik, a Scottish International, and Hicks, a Leisure Centre manager known as Britas by his colleagues, had stolen the show.

WHITECRAIGS

CELEBRATE

Whitecraigs Golf Club, in Glasgow, had cause to celebrate after their pairing of Professional Al Forrow, and amateur Iain Davidson clinched a Grand Final berth with a ten-under-par score of 60 in the West Scotland Regional Final at Buchanan Castle. Once again it was a tie,

with Cardross Golf Club matching that but losing on the countback.

SINGING IN THE RAIN

The East Scotland Regional Final was played in driving rain at Longniddry near Edinburgh and it was a local pairing from Uphall Golf Club who will be heading for sunnier climes with a four under 64. Professional Gordon Law, a former PGA Cup player and 64th finisher in last year's Open, and amateur Tom Mathieson just pipped the Desidee duo of pro Frank Courts and Ray Hardie on the countback.

Report compiled by the PGA Press Office

BANK OF SCOTLAND® INTEREST RATE CHANGE

With effect from 18th June 1997, interest rates payable on the undernoted accounts have changed.

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	Gross%*
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£2,500 to £24,999	4.00

MONEY MARKET BUSINESS CHEQUE ACCOUNT

	Gross%*
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£100,000 to £249,999	5.00
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SAILING

Ocean crews wary of going beyond the comfort zone

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Ocean Racing Club's De Guingand Bowl Race, which took place in the eastern Solent and out towards Brighton on Saturday and Sunday, demonstrated once again that when the going gets tough, large numbers of boats in RORC fleets give up.

Yesterday, only 18 of the 46 starters crossed the finishing line at Warner buoy. In Class 1, only two boats of the 19 that started completed the course. The first three boats in the overall standings were all Sigma 38s from Class 2.

The top boat was David Aisher's *Yeoman XXVIII*, with Paul King's *Serendip* second and John Oldland's *Aquadana II* third. The Class 1 winner was *Phantom of Wight*, owned by Windward Sailing, with the OOD 34, *Red Alert*, winning in Class 3. The Class 4 winner was the Carter 36, *Mavis III of Gosport*, owned by Stephen Winter.

It was a long course of some

146 miles which turned into around 160 miles once the windward legs had been taken into account, and the conditions were not pleasant. The fleet set off on Saturday morning from the Squadron line in 25-30 knots from the south-west and through the day the gusts reached 40 knots.

The course, set by Alan Green, the director of racing at RORC, took the fleet by way of 19 marks as far as Brighton at its eastern-most point. There were some nasty and long windward legs, including one of about 30 miles back from Brighton to the Owers.

Most crews gave up long before night set in, many with gear failure or no explanation. Bob Milner, race officer for the finish, said: "Possibly, they didn't like the prospect of doing all those legs in the middle of the night with the wind what it was during the day. They were obviously concerned about it getting worse and retired, whereas in fact it

moderated to Force 4." Green himself acknowledges the trend for many more boats to retire from offshore races than used to be the case, something he regards as regrettable.

"The truth is that's what they are doing and I'd like to find out why," he said. "I suspect it's because people are not prepared to be uncomfortable as willingly as they used to be."

Green said that he found it "curious" many of the crews who retired from this relatively short race and previous RORC races like it were planning to compete in this year's Fastnet Race. He said: "There may be some cases of minor gear failures and people felt they would rather not go on at the risk of breaking something. Whatever, it doesn't seem to be too hard a task for boats to go offshore for less than 24 hours in less than gale-force conditions."

There were gear failures, notably the X412, *High Six*, owned by Carol Mayne, which broke its boom, and the Laurent Giles 48, *Cetawayo*, which had a torn mainsail. But Aisher also had problems. He lost his kicker gybing round a mark but rigged a jury replacement, and he also tore one of his headsails.

Aisher, who seemed a little disappointed himself at the number of retirements, was nevertheless delighted to have stuck to his guns and won — his second overall victory in a RORC race this year. "It was hard work, especially the beat back from Portobello to the Owers, but it doesn't seem so bad now after a bacon sandwich and a sausage roll," he said.

In the West Mersea to Ostend Race, also organised by RORC, which started on Friday, there were four retirements out of a field of 18. Again, conditions were wet and uncomfortable, with some crews describing it as one of the worst races for many years.

The overall and Class 1 winner was Richard Mathews's *Oyster 46*, *Essex Girl*. In Class 2, David Geaves's consistent J35, *Fiona VII*, took the honours with Mike Cleverly's *Fighter 34*, *Rumour of Lymington*, winning in Class 3. Captain Roy Aspinall took the honours in Class 4 in the UFO 34, *Bellerophon of Mersea*.

Edwards makes flying start to record attempt

By EDWARD GORMAN

TRACY EDWARDS and her all-female crew on board the 92ft catamaran *Royal & Sun Alliance*, set off from New York yesterday on their attempt to beat the multihull transatlantic record of six days, 13 hours and three minutes held by Serge Madoc, of France.

Edwards and her ten colleagues, including the most recent additions, Samantha Davies, from Hayling Island and Sharon Ferris, of New Zealand, stormed across the official startline at the Amherst Lighthouse at dawn making 18 knots before a building 15-knot breeze.

The Atlantic crossing, which is part of the warm-up for the Jules Verne circumnavigation which is planned to start in January, is the first time Edwards and her crew have been let loose on their own on the giant catamaran without the reassuring presence of the campaign's project manager, Ed Danby, who has trained the crew.

Danby, who admitted to shedding a tear as he watched the start, said the boat has never been lighter. She has a

new lightweight mainsail and genoa, only a small amount of diesel in her tanks and the crew have taken a minimum of gear with them. He said the recent transatlantic passage to New York, in which the crew had experienced very strong head and following winds, had teased out any areas of uncertainty.

Danby believes the record can be beaten. "It's like any of these records. An amazing amount of luck is needed. We've done as much preparation as we can and the girls can do it, given the right weather pattern." During the next two days, he added, the breeze is predicted to build to around 28 knots, which is perfect for the Nigel Irens-designed multihull.

The catamaran was driven over the line by co-skipper Michele Paret, of France. Edwards herself will not helm during the trip but will concentrate on communications and the all-important link with the top American routing guru, Bob Rice, who is retained by the campaign and will advise them on the Jules Verne attempt as well.



Youngsters in Calderdale love the involvement of baseball, the chance to bat more than once, sliding, stealing bases and the fashions

Baseball makes pitch for youngsters

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE scene might have made more sense with Iowa cornfields as the backdrop rather than misty Calderdale — but while Americans would have taken a rain check in the drizzly conditions, the boys of summer are made of sterner stuff in Halifax.

South Halifax High School, a 500-strong comprehensive, was hosting two first-round year seven (under-12) games in the Calderdale Schools Baseball Leagues. In this, the youngest year, batters face non-aggressive underarm pitching from their teachers in limited-innings games; from year eight onwards, there are no favours.

Even so, the start made by South Halifax Sluggers against Crossley Heath Cubs was impressive: four consecutive base hits paved the way for a 7-6 win. Calderdale boasts three four-team leagues; schools compete at

four age levels. Of the secondary schools in the area, only three are not involved in baseball, and two of those are committed to joining next year.

The enthusiasm of Kevin McCallion, a teacher at South Halifax, is behind much of the competition's success. His own interest was awakened during spells at a summer camp in the United States and it took little persuasion from Ian Smyth, of the British Baseball Federation (BBF), an old college friend, for him to become the development officer in the area. "Yes, I introduced it and I organise it, but everyone else works hard in their schools," McCallion said. "We started with half-a-dozen schools three years ago, and it quickly took off."

"Baseball is ideal for my circumstances and those of a lot of others; I can't speak highly enough of it. I'm not a baseball nut, but I am committed to things that have a



positive effect on the kids I teach. Baseball has that.

"If you're out first ball, it doesn't mean you don't bat again; you can involve a squad of 14; it lends itself to mixed PE. Visually, it's exciting, and the fashion aspect appeals to the kids — they all have the caps. They love the way it plays, and they like the sliding and stealing. The schools have team names: Holy Trinity are the Angels, and Catholic High are the Cardinals.

"I love cricket, but it is not

right for the children at this school; we get hammered by schools with a lot of club players. Our kids find it easier to achieve success at baseball. Last year, four boys from this school represented Calderdale in the North of England championships. One even represented England in the home internationals."

Baseball has had a positive effect on other aspects of school life. South Halifax's purpose-built field began as a cross-curricular technology project. "The kids built that, in conjunction with Burger King, industry and the local farmer," McCallion said. "It's a tremendous facility. We had the Northern Schools championships on it last year."

McCallion praised the support offered by the game's governing bodies, especially the nationwide Pitch, Hit and Run programme for years six and eight promoted by Major League Baseball International and the BBF. "Pitch, Hit

and Run was introduced last year and was immensely popular," McCallion said.

"Every child in year eight in this school fulfilled the terms of the award and received a certificate. Schools that wanted to take part received a package of equipment worth £200: no other sport, to my knowledge, offers that to a school that fulfils their skills award."

"With other sports it's a battle to raise funding or sponsorship; cricket and football have never offered me a penny. Major League Baseball and BBF not only trained our teachers to coach and offered their services for free, they also stumped up equipment to enable it to be taught properly."

"The only commitment I asked from schools in return was to buy a set of gloves and to join the league. Thousands of pupils in Calderdale have been introduced to the sport as a result."

MOTOR CYCLING

Yamaha make presence felt

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SEAN EMMETT and John Reynolds shared British Superbike championship honours at a stormy Brands Hatch yesterday. However, the leading championship positions were retained by the Yamaha squad despite the fact that they had to endure their first weekend this year without a victory.

Niall Mackenzie, the defending title-holder and 1996 pace-setter, struggled to finish eighth and fourth in the two races. Chris Walker, his Yamaha team-mate, earned second and fifth places to close the points gap to nine.

Reynolds dominated all the practice sessions on his Ducati, but hit a deep puddle while leading the first race and slid out on the seat of his leathers: Emmett took full advantage, slicing past Walker on the last lap.

Terry Rymer, the Kawasaki rider, also timed his charge to perfection, taking third from Michael Rutter, on his Honda,

in the final mile. Reynolds's machine was repaired for the second race, but he could not catch the battling leaders, Iain Macpherson and Rutter, for almost half of the 24 laps. Rutter enjoyed a spell in the lead, after overtaking Macpherson, before Reynolds finally passed them both to win by less than half a second.

Tyre choice was critical on a drying surface, and Emmett and Mackenzie both gambled on the improving conditions. They were the only riders to choose intermediate instead of full wet-weather tyres and, in the early laps, slumped out of contention. Mackenzie fought back in the closing stages to beat Walker into fourth place by half a length, and Emmett rose to sixth.

At the fifth round of the World Superbike Championship in Monza, John Kocinski, of Castrol-Honda, and Pier-Francesco Chili, on a Ducati, won a race each yesterday. Kocinski, of the

United States, secured victory in the opening, dry race, getting the better of a seven-way battle for the lead to beat Aaron Slight by a wheel's length. "It's great to win at Monza — the place is so historic and is known throughout the world," Kocinski said. Carl Fogarty, the championship leader, took a very close third as the first three were split by 0.008sec.

Thunderstorms before the second race helped the challenge of Chili, who grabbed the lead on the tenth lap and eased away, opening up a six-second lead, before crossing the finish line 1.8sec ahead of Kocinski.

Jamie Whitham revelled in the treacherous conditions on his Suzuki to take his second third place in successive rounds, while Fogarty crossed the line fourth. Slight finished fifth, after colliding with Akira Yanagawa while the pair lapped a slower rider.

RUGBY UNION

Scotland opt for no changes

SCOTLAND'S tour management have opted not to replace Craig Chalmers, stand-off half, whose hamstring strain has ruled him out of the rest of the six-match tour to South Africa.

"We reckoned that we were well enough covered," said Doug Morgan, the Scotland manager. Morgan had asked yesterday for Ally Donaldson and Bryan Redpath to be flown out to replace Chalmers and the other tour injury victim Rowen Shepherd.

However, Morgan's request was met with the news that both stand-by players were unavailable because of injury. Shepherd has now been replaced by Graeme Beveridge, who arrived in South Africa yesterday.

Beveridge is certain to be named today as one of the replacements in the Scotland squad to face Gauteng Falcons on Wednesday.

Dunlop rediscovers star appeal

IT IS the quirky sense of tradition that ensures Wimbledon, which starts today, remains the tennis fan's favourite grand-slam event. This year should prove no exception, with the capricious English summer weather already threatening to make a mockery of the tournament timetable and the already extortionate price of strawberries and cream set for another inflation-busting hike.

Yet there is growing optimism that one unwanted annual tradition — the failure of the British contingent to make any impression on the tournament — may be drawing to a close. The rapid rise of Tim Henman — with Greg Rusedski lurking not far behind — has, for once, left British tennis with two players who are expected to win matches.

Henman recently demonstrated the financial rewards that come from serious tennis success by signing a £1 million racket sponsorship agreement with Dunlop Slazenger, the British sports goods manufacturer.

Dunlop's fortunes have mir-

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



ous British player with which it can appeal to the still important United Kingdom market. More broadly, Henman's instinctive and fair-led approach to the game fits in with the different styles that Dunlop has been developing to distinguish its four main brands.

The company uses Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, and Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, to promote the Dunlop brand. The company is trying to distinguish the Dunlop ball and racket brands by a scientific and futuristic approach to the sport. Philippoussis, after all, is best known for possessing the fastest service in the world, which has recently measured at around 142 miles per hour.

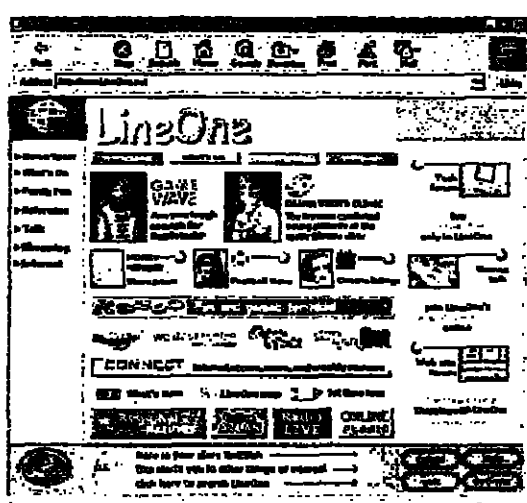
Player sponsorship is not the only method that sports companies could use to promote their products. Dunlop takes a slightly different approach with its Slazenger golf mark, using on-course professionals to promote the range of Slazenger products. In an unusual loyalty scheme, Slazenger provides contributions to pension schemes, hav-

ing discovered that many American course professionals were leaving golf because of the lack of security — a scheme that is now being rolled out in the United Kingdom.

Nevertheless, Dunlop has found that despite the high costs, player sponsorship remains a fundamental way to develop and distinguish brands. The company discovered in its market research that consumers liked the idea of racket manufacturers spending more on promoting brands at grass-roots level, but assumed that if this was done at the expense of not sponsoring top players, the company must be short of money.

During Dunlop's era as part of BTR, sponsorship was cut back and the company feels it lost vital ground to its competitors. Now free again to put money behind its brands, Dunlop is optimistic that a Henman success at Wimbledon, despite a hefty bonus payment, would prove to be extremely good value.

ALASDAIR MURRAY



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It takes more than a rod, a reel and a box of flies to catch a salmon, as Christian Dymond found out

Wails and tales down by the riverbank

With fly-fishing, as with other pleasures in life, the excitement often lies in the anticipation. For weeks I had dreamt of landing the big silver one and standing there beaming with my fish. "Fisherman holding freshly caught salmon" is not an uncommon subject for the camera.

Fiona Armstrong, the TV presenter, has written a beginner's guide to salmon fishing, *F is for Fly-Fishing*, in which she says that all you need is a rod, a reel, some line, a length of nylon and a box of flies.

So on the day she took me fishing I was surprised to find her car boot crammed with wicker baskets, mountains of sandwiches, several pairs of waders, heaps of flies, any number of flasks, and enough pullovers to warm a battalion. Clearly, this was to be an expedition.

The beat that we had been allocated was one of two on four miles of the River Tweed near Berwick-Upon-Tweed. The Tweed evokes the same reverence among salmon anglers as Lord's does among cricketers. There are about 10,000 salmon caught there every year by rod and line.

Not far from us at Kelso, on a stretch of water known as the Junction Pool, people pay more than £20,000 a week for six rods in the October peak. But then you can also get time there in June and July for £25 a day per rod (no gillie) because



Expert: Fiona shows how it's done. Below: Ally's Shrimp



Equipment:
Salmon rod: £70-£600
Reel: £45-£200
Waders: £75-£170
Flies: £1-£2 each
Fly lines: £30-£40 each
Wading jacket: £100-£200
Life-jacket: £100-£120

there are fewer salmon around. The price for a beat generally reflects the amount of fish likely to be caught there at a certain time. At Horncliffe, Northumberland, where 270 salmon were taken last season (February 1 to November 30), the cost a day per rod (up to four rods on each beat) is £70 from mid-August to early October.

The gillie is extra at £30 a day, but his services are mandatory on the Horncliffe beats from the end of July until the end of the season.

"A bright fly for a bright day, a dull fly for a dull day is a general rule of thumb," said Ms Armstrong as the gillie, Carl Hudson, assembled my 15-ft carbon-fibre rod. Mr Hudson selected a fly for me called the Comet, which was black and red with a trail of yellow hair. "I've had success with this one at this time of the season, so that's why I've chosen it," he explained.

Salmon flies can be made from feather, fur, silk, tinsel and hair — success has been recorded with flies that in-

clude a tuft of female pubic hair. Flies come in a staggering variety of size and colour with names to match: The General Practitioner, Garry Dog, Hairy Mary, Silver Rat and Ally's Shrimp.

There is also a Fiona's Fancy, named after my hostess. She confesses that nothing has fished it yet. Some dedicated fisher folk tie their own flies, thus choosing what goes on them.

Although salmon tend to lie deeper in colder water, Horncliffe's fishing agent, Albert Robinson, gave me the impression that the fish are a law unto themselves. "There's nothing logical about salmon at all," he said. "They're completely unpredictable. If they're not in the taking mood, they won't take. If they're in the taking mood, they'll take anything."

As a general guide, the lower the salmon lie in the water, the heavier the line and the bigger the fly you will need to use.

Ms Armstrong, occasional guest presenter of BSKYB's fishing series *Tight Lines* and regular contributor to *Trout and Salmon* magazine, believes that salmon fishing is not just about the catch. "It's about the quietness of the river bank, the fresh air, the companionship of anglers, the exercise and the escape from telephones and faxes," she said.

As far as I could see, it was also about escaping from traffic. Three days before I had



Cast away: Dymond (left) is taught the "tick, tock" method of casting by Carl Hudson

been stuck on the A13 outside Ford's at Dagenham, in Greater London, and here I was being gently rowed into the middle of the Tweed with an English springer spaniel called Jive.

With the boat anchored by a short piece of railway line, Mr Hudson began to instruct me in the art of casting. You've got to fool the salmon into thinking that the fly bobbing in the water is real and worth having a stab at, so the less you make an exhibition of yourself, the better.

There are several ways of casting, but when it comes to using the overhead method, Mr Hudson adheres to the "tick, tock" principle. Thus he told me to say "tick" as I flicked the rod out of the water

to a position directly above my head and "tock" as I laid it down again almost at a right angle to the bank. A straight back was required, but certainly not brute force. Bowing to the river, as people tactfully describe the act of throwing yourself forward to project the line, is considered bad form. Anyway, it rocks the boat.

Once the fly was in the water, I waited until it had "swum" round with the current and was resting "on the dangle" before snapping up the rod again and re-casting. The process was repeated many times before the gillie rowed upriver to find another place. Covering the beat is all part of the sport.

"This man's in danger of impersonating a fly-fisherman," Mr Hudson said to Ms Armstrong. I assumed the gillie says this about all newcomers as a way of encouragement, but I preened none the less.

I wasn't sure how I would feel about despatching a salmon, but the matter did not arise. I had heard stories of fishermen going for years without a catch so a morning without was hardly worth crying over.

Besides, I had saved Horncliffe Fishing some money. The Tweed commissioners raise a levy on beats for policing and scientific work, based on a five-year average catch rate. At the moment it works out at £40 a

fish. One of the reasons that folk consider fly-fishing to be the purest form of fishing is because of the skill involved in casting a fly.

This is what captivated Ann Graham so much ten years ago and turned her into a complete enthusiast. One of 3-4 million anglers in this country, "When I go fishing I forget all my troubles because I am so completely consumed in the sport," she said.

She had bade me "tight lines" before my fishing trip, which equates to saying: "Good luck, and hope your line becomes taut with a big fat salmon at the end." The fact that it didn't means I am still anticipating. And that's as good a reason as any for returning to the riverbank.

FISHY FACTS

■ **HORNCLIFFE**
Fishing is near Northam, Northumberland, tel 01289 386683.

■ **THE JUNCTION**
Pool at Kelso offers spring and autumn fishing (February 1 to Nov 30) contact Strutt & Parker 0171 629 7282. For summer fishing contact tackle shops in the Borders.

■ **AN ANNUAL** rod licence for game fishing (salmon and sea trout) is required for anyone fishing for salmon in England and Wales, though not in Scotland and not on the Tweed. It costs £55 from post offices.

■ **FIONA** Armstrong's book, *F is for Fly-Fishing*, is published by Neil Wilson at £9.99.

■ **GAME** angling instructors can be contacted through the Salmon and Trout Association's National Register of Game Angling Instructors, tel: 0171 283 5838, or via the Association of Professional Game Angling Instructors, secretary, Michael Evans, tel 01342 850765. The Register of Experienced Fly Fishing Instructors and Schools, 01305 848460, has instructors and schools nationwide.

■ **TOURIST** information centres in the Borders offer free copies of the *Complete Guide to Fishing in the Scottish Borders*.

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS				For entry details you can either:			
TITLE SPONSOR Mees Pierson				National Final shown on sky sports			
Date	Company name	Venue	Score	Date	Company name	Venue	Score
24 APR	HENDERSON INVESTORS	HUNTERCOMBE	134	6 JUN	NORTHERN BANK LIMITED	ROYAL BELFAST	139
5 MAY	STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO	ASHLUDDE	135	6 JUN	CATELLA UK LIMITED	LEATHERHEAD	139
15 MAY	FORBES & CO	TEMPLE	125	6 JUN	COOPERS & LYBRAND	HADLEY WOOD	138
16 MAY	MANCHESTER PUBLICITY ASSOCIATION	WILMSLOW	140	6 JUN	NATIONAL STARCH & CHEMICAL LTD	THE WARRICKSHIRE	138
15 MAY	ELECTROLUX GROUP (IRELAND) LTD	THE K CLUB	141	7 JUN	SIMPSON'S MALT LIMITED	PLYMOUTH	142
15 MAY	ADHESIVE & DISPLAY PRODUCTS	WELLINGBOROUGH	127	9 JUN	STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS LTD	DUNES DENNE	157
16 MAY	THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK	OLD THORNS	133	9 JUN	HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE	BATFORD	160
19 MAY	ORCHARD TOYS	STANTON ON THE WOLDS	155	9 JUN	NAT WEST	SWINLEY FOREST	126
22 MAY	KPMG	BLACKWELL	130	10 JUN	COUTTS CAREER CONSULTANTS	RATHO PARK	151
23 MAY	DEMCO TRUCKS	SHAMON PARK	137	10 JUN	CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP LIMITED	FULFORD	142
26 MAY	BRITISH TELECOM NORTH EAST	WAKEFIELD	153	10 JUN	TAYLOR WALTON	HARPENDEN	140
28 MAY	EXPO INTERNATIONAL GROUP PLC	CALCOT PARK	138	10 JUN	DARBY'S SOLICITORS	FULFORD HEATH	148
28 MAY	RANK XEROX UK LTD	CAMBERLEY HEATH	123	10 JUN	ABEY NATIONAL BENEFIT CONSULTANTS LTD	LEATHERHEAD	139
29 MAY	JACKSON'S	GRANGE PARK	156	11 JUN	ROBERT MORRIS & SON LTD	DALMUNZIE	158
29 MAY	ALLIED OVERSEAS ASSURANCE - SWINDON	CHIPPENHAM	145	11 JUN	ROWE & MAW	ASHRIDGE	160
29 MAY	ICL	LISBURN	144	11 JUN	MORESECURE LTD	THE SHROPSHIRE	132
30 MAY	WRS/ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS	BREADSALL PRIORITY	117	11 JUN	ALLFIELD FINANCIAL SERVICES	BOGNOR REGIS	158
30 MAY	SUTCLIFFE CATERING	WIDBURN	158	12 JUN	JARDINE INSURANCE SERVICES	BLLEY	138
3 JUN	KPMG CHAMLEY/MANSTONE	MANNINGS HEATH	134	12 JUN	BARRING ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED	SWINLEY FOREST	135
4 JUN	CAPITAL ASSET FINANCE LIMITED	CRIDDINGFOLD	157	12 JUN	CHARTWELL LAND PLC	HEVER	145
4 JUN	LAWRENCE GRAHAM	THE RAG COUNTRY CLUB	150	12 JUN	J R TAYLOR	BOLTON	143
4 JUN	BARCLAYS BANK PLC	KIDBY BRIDGE	140	12 JUN	AMERICAN EXPRESS	EAST RIBBINGTON	149
6 JUN	NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE	EAST WERTS	146	13 JUN	AUKETT ASSOCIATES	FINCHLEY	145
6 JUN	SHAWMAC LIMITED	LISBURN	143	13 JUN	MOBR OIL	MERTONMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	151

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There are various way stations in a bridge player's decline. Ones I've passed so far include losing to a team captained by someone with a double-barrelled name, losing a Gold Cup match to a team containing women (twice, admittedly against the ex-world champions Pat Davies and Nicola Smith), and losing to a team in which a man was playing with his mother. I haven't yet lost to a Welsh team, but no doubt it'll come. I added a new one to the list at the 1997 Malta Bridge Festival — our team was outbid by a 12-year-old.

Dealer North	Love all	IMPs
♠ 9 7 4 ♥ 10 8 ♦ A K 3 ♣ K 10 8 5	N W E S	+A 5 +K J 9 7 5 2 +Q J 8 6 2 —
♠ 10 3 2 ♥ 4 ♦ 5 ♣ A Q 8 4 3 2		
S W N E 4 S All Pass 1 NT (12-14) 2 H		

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ten of diamonds

South has an awkward call over East's Two Heart intervention. When my partner Mario Dix was South he bid Three Clubs; although that is not forcing, with his distributional hand it seemed quite likely there would be further bidding from the opposition, giving him a chance to show his spades later. Unfortunately for him, East-West passed out. Mr Bridge will send you a free sample copy of all three. Send £1.50 to cover postage to Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange, Bisleigh, Surrey, GU21 2TH.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| HEISENBERG | LOONS |
| a. A university | a. Belgians |
| b. Uncertainty | b. Spectacles |
| c. A student's cap | c. Flared pants |
| MUSEAU | MORDIDA |
| a. A face | a. A bribe |
| b. A museum | b. A witch |
| c. A working session | c. A snack |

Answers on page 43

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short's revival

Nigel Short bounced back after his poor start in the Novgorod tournament to win in the seventh and eighth rounds against, respectively, Yevgeni Baryev and Vladimir Kramnik.

Beating Kramnik, in particular, is a most noteworthy achievement, given Kramnik's recent scores against Kasparov and his overall No 2 world ranking.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Novgorod, June 1997

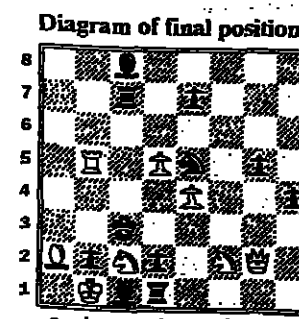
Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 d4	cd4
4 Nd4	Nf6
5 Ng3	g6
6 Bg2	Bg7
7 Bc4	O-O
8 Bb3	Na5
9 Qd2	Bd7
10 Bb6	Rc8
11 Bc7	Kg7
12 Bc6	a6
13 Qc3	e5
14 Bc5	Qb6
15 Nde2	Qb5
16 O-O-O	Bb5
17 Qc3	Bxc2
18 Qxc2	Nxb3+
19 axb3	exd4
20 Rb1	Qa5
21 Rb4	Qa1+
22 Nb1	Nd7
23 Rxd3	Nc5
24 Qc3	a5
25 e5	b5
26 Rb4	Kg8
27 Rd5	Ne6
28 Qc6	Rxc2+
29 Kc2	Rc8+
30 Nc3	Black resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This week I celebrate the great English player Howard Staunton whose headstone will be unveiled at Kensal Green cemetery on July 28. Black to play. From the game Evans — Staunton, London 1845. Black moves his knight on f1, giving check with his queen on c6. Could Black be hampered by the attack against his queen? What did he play? Solution on page 43



□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Remedies for refusal of entry to EC state

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Shingara
Regina v Same, Ex parte Radom

(Joined Cases C-65/95 and C-111/95)

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges G. F. Mancini, J. L. Murray, L. Sevón, C. N. Kakkouris, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edwards, J. P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch and M. Wathelet

Advocate General D. Ruiz-Jarabo Colomer

(Opinion November 26, 1996)

(Judgment June 17)

The provision of a Community directive requiring nationals of a member state who were refused entry into another state to have the same legal remedies available to nationals of the latter state, was satisfied if nationals of all member states enjoyed remedies against acts of the administration generally in that state, even if different remedies were also available to nationals of the state.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities held, *inter alia*, on a reference by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty, in which a number of questions were asked on the interpretation of articles 8 and 9 of Council Directive 64/221/EEC of February 25, 1964 on the co-ordination of special measures concerning the movement and residence of foreign nationals which were justified on grounds of public policy, public security or public health (OJ English Special Edition 1963-1964 p17).

The applicant in the first case, Mr. Mann Singh Shingara, a French national, attempted to visit the United Kingdom in 1991 but was refused entry.

The notice of refusal indicated, first, that the secretary of state had personally decided that, owing to Mr. Shingara's alleged links with Sikh extremists, it would be con-

trary to public policy and security to allow him entry, and, second, that Mr. Shingara was not entitled to appeal against the refusal of entry.

In July 1993 Mr. Shingara was admitted to the United Kingdom, but a few days later was arrested, detained as an illegal entrant and returned to France.

The applicant in the second case, Mr. Abbas Radom, who had both Iranian and Irish nationality, resided in Ireland.

In 1983 he was granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom, where he worked for the Irish consular service, but in 1989, following the severing of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and the Islamic Republic of Iran, he was told by the Home Office that he had to leave within seven days.

He later applied to the Home Office for a Community residence permit, but was refused by a letter of November 1992 which also stated that he had no right of appeal.

The order for reference stated that the secretary of state, after personal consideration, had concluded that it would not be in the interests of national security for the exclusion order to be withdrawn.

In applications for judicial review, the applicants sought a declaration that they were entitled to appeal under article 8 of Directive 64/221/EEC against the decision of July 1993 and November 1992, respectively, or to an examination of their situation in accordance with article 9.

Article 1 of the directive provides: "(1) The provisions of this Directive shall apply to any national of a member state who resides in or travels to another member state of the Community."

Article 8 provides: "The person concerned shall have the same legal remedies in respect of any decision concerning entry, or refusing the issue or renewal of a residence permit, or ordering expulsion from the territory, as are

available to nationals of the state concerned in respect of acts of the administration."

Article 9 provides: "(1) Where there is no right of appeal to a court of law, or where such appeal may be only in respect of the legal validity of the decision, or where the appeal cannot have suspensory effect, a decision refusing renewal of a residence permit or ordering the expulsion of the holder of a residence permit from the territory shall not be taken by the administrative authority ... until an opinion has been obtained from a competent authority of the host country before the issue of the decision, concerning the rights of defence and of assistance or representation as the domestic law of that country provides for ..."

"(2) Any decision refusing the issue of a first residence permit or ordering expulsion of the person concerned before the issue of the permit shall, where the person so requests, be referred for consideration to the authority whose prior opinion is required under paragraph (1) ..."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

The first question referred concerned remedies under national law.

Section 13 of the Immigration Act 1971 provided that a person refused leave to enter the United Kingdom could appeal to an adjudicator, but that there was no such right of appeal if the secretary of state certified that directions had been given by him for the person concerned not to be given entry on the ground that his exclusion was conducive to the public good.

That administrative remedy was to be distinguished, in the United Kingdom, from applications for judicial review, whereby the legality of decisions of public authorities was subject to review by the ordinary courts.

The applicants maintained that where nationals of a member state had a specific right of appeal against any refusal of recognition of their right of entry, nationals of other member states must have the

same right of appeal in respect of a similar refusal, even if the reasons for the refusal differed.

The United Kingdom Government argued that article 8 referred to remedies in general and the guarantee of the availability of judicial review was sufficient to comply with its provisions. The directive did not call for comparisons between the circumstances of a national of a member state refused entry into another member state and the hypothetical and unlikely situation of a national refused entry into his home state for reasons of national security.

The national legislation provided for remedies in respect of acts of the administration generally and another kind of remedy in respect of decisions concerning entry of nationals of the member state concerned.

The order for reference also stated that the latter remedy was also available to non-nationals regarding entry, with the exception, however, of refusals of entry on the ground of the public good.

The reservations contained in articles 48 and 56 of the EC Treaty permitted member states to adopt, with respect to the nationals of other member states and on the grounds specified in those provisions, in particular grounds justified by the requirements of public policy, measures which they could not apply to their own nationals, in as much as they had no authority to expel the latter from the national territory or to deny them access thereto.

It followed that the remedies available to nationals of other member states in the circumstances defined by the directive could not be assessed by reference to the remedies available to nationals of the state concerned the right of entry.

The two situations were indeed in no way comparable whereas in the case of nationals the right of entry was a consequence of the status of national, so that there could be no margin of discretion for the state in relation to the exercise of that right, the special

circumstances which could justify reliance on the concept of public policy as against nationals of other member states could vary over time and from one country to another, and it was therefore necessary to allow the competent national authorities a margin of discretion.

The Court of Justice considered the further questions referred, and on the grounds stated by it ruled:

1. On a proper construction of article 8 of Directive 64/221, where under the national legislation of a member state remedies were available in respect of acts of the administration generally and different remedies were available in respect of decisions concerning entry by nationals of that member state, the obligation imposed on the member state by that provision was satisfied if nationals of other member states enjoyed the same remedies as those available against acts of the administration generally in that member state.

2. On a proper construction of article 9 of the directive, the three cases mentioned in article 9(1) (namely, "where there is no right of appeal to a court of law, or where such appeal may be only in respect of the legal validity of the decision, or where the appeal cannot have suspensory effect, applied equally as regards article 9(2), that is to say, where the decision challenged was a refusal to issue a first residence permit or a decision ordering expulsion adopted before the issue of such a permit.

3. A national of a member state against whom an administrative decision refusing entry into another member state had been made on grounds of public order or public security had a right of appeal under article 8 of the directive and, if appropriate, a right to obtain the opinion of an independent competent authority in accordance with article 9 of the directive, with respect to a fresh decision taken by the administrative authorities on an application made by him after a reasonable time had elapsed since the last decision prohibiting him from entering the country.

After the signing of a contract between Turner and Coditel Brands SA, of which Mr. Paul Denuit was the managing director, for the retransmission of the programmes, a Belgian minister, by decree of September 17, 1993, prohibited distribution of the programmes on cable networks in the City of Brussels region.

The reasons stated for the prohibition were, *inter alia*, that the programmes consisted essentially of material produced outside the European Community and commercial advertising, that they conflicted with the aims of the television without frontiers directive.

Turner International Sales Ltd, established in London, obtained authorisation from the United Kingdom authorities under the Broadcasting Act 1990 to transmit a television programme TNT & Cartoon Network via satellite.

The TNT & Cartoon Network programmes comprised a non-domestic satellite service within section 43(2) of the 1990 Act, and by section 43(2), conditions relating to the programming of European works were not applicable to such a service.

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Retransmission of foreign television broadcasts

Criminal proceedings against Denuit

Case C-14/96

Before G. F. Mancini, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges J. L. Murray, C. N. Kakkouris, P. J. G. Kapteyn and H. Ragnemalm

Advocate General C. O. Lenz

(Opinion February 6)

(Judgment May 29)

A member state could not oppose the retransmission on its territory of broadcasts of a television broadcaster over which another member state had jurisdiction, where the ground of opposition was that the broadcasts did not conform with requirements in the Community "television without frontiers" directive as to the programming of European works.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities held, *inter alia*, when answering questions referred to it by the Tribunal de Première Instance (Court of First Instance), Brussels, for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty on the interpretation of article 2 of Council Directive 89/552/EEC of October 3, 1989 on the co-ordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in member states concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities (OJ 1989 L258 p23).

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The TNT & Cartoon Network programmes comprised a non-domestic satellite service within section 43(2) of the 1990 Act, and by section 43(2), conditions relating to the programming of European works were not applicable to such a service.

After the signing of a contract between Turner and Coditel Brands SA, of which Mr. Paul Denuit was the managing director, for the retransmission of the programmes, a Belgian minister, by decree of September 17, 1993, prohibited distribution of the programmes on cable networks in the City of Brussels region.

The reasons stated for the prohibition were, *inter alia*, that the programmes consisted essentially of material produced outside the European Community and commercial advertising, that they conflicted with the aims of the television without frontiers directive.

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to oppose retransmission of broadcasts of a broadcaster over which another member state had jurisdiction if the broadcasts did not comply with articles 4 and 5.

Under the system established by the directive for allocating obligations from which broadcasts emanated and those which received them, it was solely for the state from which broadcasts emanated to monitor the application of the law of the originating member state applying to such broadcasts, and to ensure compliance with the directive.

The receiving member state was not authorised to exercise its own control in that regard.

That was what the court held in Case C-11/96 *Commission v Belgium* ([1996] ECR I-458, para 34), and that interpretation was borne out by the preamble to the Directive.

It was only in the circumstances specified in the second sentence of article 2(2) that the receiving state could, exceptionally, suspend retransmission of television broadcasts.

If a member state considered that another state had failed to fulfil its obligations under the Directive, it could bring infringement proceedings under article 170 of the EC Treaty or ask the Commission to take action under article 169.

It was settled case law that a member state could not unilaterally and on its own authority adopt corrective or protective measures designed to obviate any breach by another state of rules of Community law.

On those grounds the Court ruled:

Article 2(1) of Directive 89/552 was to be interpreted as meaning that a television broadcaster came under the jurisdiction of the member state in which it was established.

The origin of programmes broadcast by the television broadcaster or their conformity with articles 4 and 5 of the Directive were irrelevant in determining the member state having jurisdiction over such a broadcaster pursuant to article 2(1).

Article 2(2) was to be interpreted as meaning that a member state could not oppose the retransmission on its territory of broadcasts of a television broadcaster over which another member state had jurisdiction when those broadcasts did not conform with the requirements of articles 4 and 5 of the Directive.

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Tax losses to be linked to income earned in same state

Futura Participations SA and Another v Administration des Contributions

Case C-250/95

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges G. F. Mancini, J. L. Murray, L. Sevón, C. N. Kakkouris, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edwards, J. P. Puissochet, H. Ragnemalm, M. Wathelet and R. Schintgen

Advocate General C. O. Lenz

(Opinion November 5, 1996)

(Judgment May 15)

Article 52 of the EC Treaty, on freedom of establishment, did not, in the case of a taxpayer firm or company which had a branch in a member state but was not resident there, preclude that state from making the carrying forward of losses incurred in previous years subject to the condition that the losses were economically related to the income earned in that state, provided that resident taxpayers did not receive more favourable treatment.

However, it did preclude the imposition of a condition that, in the year in which the losses were incurred, the taxpayer must have kept and held in that state accounts relating to his activities carried on there which complied with national rules.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, *inter alia*, on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the Treaty by the Conseil d'Etat du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, in proceedings concerning the basis of assessment to establish the liability to revenue tax for the year 1986 of Singer, the Luxembourg branch of Futura, a company whose seat was in Paris.

Under Luxembourg law, resident taxpayers could deduct from their net income losses carried forward from previous years, provided that they had kept such accounts during the financial year in which the losses were incurred.

Non-resident taxpayers were not obliged to keep separate accounts relating to their Luxembourg activities. If they did not keep such accounts they were allowed to determine the amount of their Luxembourg taxable income on the basis of an apportionment of their total income.

Article 157(2) of the relevant law allowed non-resident taxpayers to deduct previous losses provided that they were economically related to income received locally and that accounts were kept within the country.

The rule applied was that such accounts had to comply with Luxembourg rules.

Since Futura did not have proper accounts for 1986, it determined its taxable income for that year on an apportionment of Futura's total income. It requested the set-off of losses incurred in 1981-1985, and, since it did not have

proper accounts for that period either, determined the amount of the losses also on an apportionment basis.

The set-off was refused on the ground that a non-resident taxpayer could only carry forward a loss if the conditions of article 157(2) were respected.

In appeal proceedings the plaintiffs claimed that the refusal to take account of the losses in question impaired the freedom of establishment guaranteed to them by article 52 of the Treaty.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

The carrying forward of losses was subject to two conditions. The first concerned economic linkage, so that only losses arising from the non-resident's activities in the state could be carried forward.

The basis of assessment for resident taxpayers included all profits and losses arising from their Luxembourg activities.

In the case of non-residents, only profits and losses arising from their Luxembourg activities were taken into account in calculating the tax payable by them there.

Such a system, which was in conformity with the fiscal principle of territoriality, could not be regarded as entailing any discrimination, overt or covert, prohibited by the Treaty.

The second condition concerned the keeping of accounts complying with the relevant national rules.

Such a condition could constitute a restriction on the freedom of establishment of a company or firm which wished to establish a branch in a member state different from that in which it had its seat.

It meant in practice that if such a company or firm wished to carry forward losses incurred by the branch, it had to keep, in addition to its own accounts which must comply with the tax accounting rules in the state where the seat was, separate accounts complying with the rules of the state where the branch was established. Those accounts had to be held at the place of establishment of the branch.

The imposition of such a condition, specifically affecting companies or firms having their seat in another state, was in principle prohibited by article 52.

It could only be otherwise if the measure pursued a legitimate aim compatible with the Treaty and was justified by pressing reasons of public interest, and even then it would have to be such as to ensure achievement of the aim and not go beyond what was necessary.

The court had held that the effectiveness of fiscal supervision constituted an overriding requirement of general interest justifying a restriction on the exercise of fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Treaty.

Member states could therefore apply measures enabling the amount of income and losses to be ascertained clearly and precisely.

As Community law stood at present, the aims of the second condition, of ensuring that claimed losses corresponded to actual losses and enabling the Luxembourg tax authorities to inspect the accounts at any time, would not be attained if the authorities had to refer to accounts kept by the non-resident taxpayer pursuant to another member state's rules.

However, there remained the question whether the second condition went beyond what was necessary to enable the losses to be ascertained.

Since non-residents were as a rule not obliged to keep proper accounts, the authorities had in principle

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

هذه امن الاصل

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Lonrho, Finais: AEA Technology, Allen, Harvey Nichols, TBI.

TOMORROW

Interims: First Leisure Corp, Finais: Alba, Glaxo, Claythorpe, East Surrey Holdings, E.H. Evans of Leeds, Halma, Hampton Industries, Hewlett-Packard, Indian Hotels, Majestic Wines, Philips Electronics (Q2), Photobion Group, Vendome Luxury Group, Economic statistics: US June conference board consumer confidence index.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: ML Laboratories, Finais: DBS Management, Greene King, Hogg Robinson, Lambert Fenchurch Insurance, London Insurance Market, Murray Smaller Markets, John Tams Group, TGI, Vocalis, Wessex Water, Economic statistics: United Kingdom April global, May non-EU trade, UK May harmonised CPI.

THURSDAY

Finais: WS Atkins, Asda Group, Bechtel Group, BPS, Christie Group, Debenhams Tewson, Great Universal Stores, Kalama-zoo Computer Group, Kewill Systems, Murray Spill Capital, Regalian Properties, Sylvania, Xavier, Economic statistics: US June conference board help-wanted index.

FRIDAY

Finais: Caffe Inns, Ivory & Sims, Meconic, Neepsend, Scudder Latin American Investment Trust, Economic statistics: UK Q1 end-May monthly mortgage lending, UK Q1 balance of payments, UK Q1 final GDP.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.30
Austria Sch	21.08
Belgium Bfr	61.93
Canada \$	2.412
Cyprus CypL	0.688
Denmark Kr	11.43
Finland Mk	9.07
France Fr	16.37
Germany DM	3.01
Greece Dr	477
Hong Kong \$	15.53
Ireland P	127
Italy Lit	1.14
Japan Yen	160
Malta	0.589
Netherlands Gld	3.60
New Zealand \$	2.58
Norway Kr	13.44
Portugal Esc	300.00
Spain Ptas	166.64
Sweden Kr	25.48
Switzerland Fr	2.32
Turkey Lira	25.078
USA \$	1.57

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading on Friday.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

GUS may have a surprise in store



Slower sales and tighter margins concern Archie Norman and Allan Leighton of Asda

GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES: The decision of the group to bring forward its full-year announcement by several weeks to this Thursday has fuelled speculation that the company may be planning to reward shareholders. Talk is of a possible special dividend or share buyback.

The market will no doubt also be paying close attention to the figures, which are expected to show a downturn in pre-tax profits of around 3 per cent, from £560.6 million to £546 million. Earnings per share are down from 36.9p to 35.8p.

The figures will include a first-time contribution from Experian. Great Universal's recent US acquisition, and also reflect the slowdown in sales at its domestic mail order division. The £1.04 billion acquisition of Experian will have made a serious dent in the group's cash mountain, which at the end of 1996 stood at £1.19 billion.

According to NatWest Securities, the broker, any further cash outflows will be offset by the injection arising from the British Land joint property venture, which included an initial downpayment of £200 million.

Brokers will no doubt tax Lord Wolfson, chairman, on his plans, including the repositioning of the group's mail order business. Next month they are due to pay a visit to Experian's operation in Nottingham. Shareholders can expect a payout of 18.2p, an increase of 10 per cent on the previous year.

ASDA: Full-year figures on Thursday will be swollen by exceptional profits of £80 million relating to the sale of Asda's stake in Allied Carpets.

The estimate of profits at the pre-tax level range from £335 million to £350 million. That compares with £304.6 million last time, an increase of 12 per cent. Earnings are expected to grow by around 11 per cent, from 7.6p to 8.4p. Brokers will no doubt want to address the problems of a deceleration in like-for-like sales and a levelling off in margins.

The group, headed by Archie Norman, chairman, and Allan Leighton, chief executive, is continuing to press ahead with its new store opening programme. A further six are expected this year at a cost of

£120 million. But brokers say there is little likelihood of the group achieving the gross margins seen at Tesco, its rival. The payout is expected to grow by almost 10 per cent to 3p.

FIRST LEISURE: Michael Grade, the new non-executive chairman, and his plans for the future are likely to take centre stage when the group takes a bow with interim figures tomorrow.

Just as well, really, seeing as this is likely to be a fairly mundane performance, with pre-tax profits at £16.5 million and earnings stagnant at 16.5p. The second half should provide the better performance, with analysts having already pencilled in a final figure of £44 million.

The trading statement released

in May underlined the problems faced by the bingo division and the subsequent departure of Nick Tamblin, the man in charge. Brokers will want to know what future role the business is likely to play.

The payout is expected to grow 10 per cent from 2.5p to 2.75p.

HARVEY NICHOLS: Shareholders will be hoping for something to cheer about when the group reports full-year figures on Monday.

It has been a miserable year, with the shares underperforming the market by 25 per cent. But sales at its Leeds store have been exceeding expectations and its new up-market Oxo Tower restaurant on the south bank by the Thames has been doing a roaring

trade. HSBC James Capel, the company's own broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £12.8 million against £9.2 million last time.

WESSEX WATER: The group rounds off the reporting season for the water utilities, with full-year figures on Wednesday.

Brokers are anticipating a solid performance, despite its abortive bid last year for South West Water, with pre-tax profits set to grow from £134 million to between £145 million and £152 million. At the top end of the range, that would be an increase of 14 per cent. At the halfway stage the group recorded an increase of 11 per cent to £67.3 million.

The main thrust to profits growth will, naturally enough,

come from its regulated water business. But as the group chooses not to reveal exceptional items, the cost of the bid for South West is unlikely to be disclosed. In January the group began a new cost-cutting programme, but it is unlikely that any benefit from that exercise will be reflected in these figures.

Elsewhere, UK Waste, in which Wessex has a 50 per cent stake, continues to mark time, while the landfill operation should chip in with a contribution of £13 million.

Once again shareholders can look forward to a lucrative payout of 17.4p, an increase of 15 per cent.

BPB INDUSTRIES: Full-year figures out on Thursday are likely to reveal the damage that a strong pound can have on profits. At the pre-tax level they are expected to fall 9 per cent, from £177.3 million to £161 million, with earnings a share down from 22.6p to 20.1p, a fall of 11 per cent.

The company has already announced that the impact of the pound in the second half is likely to be £17 million.

That, combined with problems in the boiler division, has knocked £20 million off earlier estimates with brokers now looking for a final outcome of £161 million against £177.3 million last time. Earnings will be down 11 per cent at 20.1p.

On a trading level, the group should have lived up to expectations. Plasterboard volumes rose 7 per cent in the first six months and have been maintained since, although the gains in Europe have been less spectacular. Despite the setback for profits, the payout should be lifted from 9.7p to 10.3p.

LAMBERT FENCHURCH GROUP: Brokers will have a chance to discover how well the integration of Fenchurch Insurance and Lowndes Lambert have gone when the group reports full-year figures on Wednesday.

Early indications suggest it has gone well, although this is unlikely to be reflected in the figures with pre-tax profits set to fall from £14 million to just £300,000.

The current year should reflect the benefits of the acquisitions, with brokers already forecasting £25 million. The dividend payment this time round will be pegged at 8.7p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Budget holds centre stage

The outcome of the weekend's G7 summit in Denver, Colorado, is likely to cause some aftershocks in the money markets this week, with the usual half-hearted expressions of concern over the US-Japan trade deficit unlikely to stop the yen from climbing higher.

There is little hard economic data in the UK this week to provide further clues to the interest rate outlook so Budget speculation will dominate trading. The stock market is expected to continue to struggle because of fears of corporate tax rises, while sterling should move higher. The Treasury's auction of 7.25 per cent gills 2007 on Wednesday will generate some extra interest.

The latest trade deficit figures are published on Wednesday with economists still looking for the first real signs that the strong pound is beginning to hurt exports. MMS International, the economics consultancy group, forecasts that the global trade deficit will widen slightly to £690 million in April, from £671 million in March. The net-EU deficit is also expected to increase from £335 million in April to £550 million in May.

The revised first-quarter GDP figures, which are due to be published on Friday, are unlikely to cause much of a stir with economists predicting that the data will be left unchanged showing quarterly GDP growth of 0.9 per cent, and an annual rate of growth of 3 per cent.

In the US, weaker than expected data last week eased fears of a further interest rate tightening. But today's durable goods orders, and consumer confidence measures to be published tomorrow, could signal that the slowdown in consumer activity in the second quarter may not last into the autumn.

Budget wrangling will be the main focus in Germany as the Government tries desperately to agree on measures to help reduce its borrowing requirement. But economists believe that beyond a few small privatisations, the German Government will struggle to find suitable savings and will be unable to plug the Budget gap sufficiently to meet the Maastricht 3 per cent deficit criteria.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Firth Rixson, Scapa, Harvey Nichols, First Choice, Wimpey, Hold Asda. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Abbott Mead, Barrasford, Hercules, Friendly Hotels, Hold Midland Independent Newspapers, Sell Psion. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Tinsley Robor, Stoves, Avoid Petra Diamonds. The Express on Sunday: Buy Chemring, Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

HEISENBERG

(b) The name of Werner Heisenberg (b. 1901), the German physicist on a par with Einstein and Rutherford. His name is used as an acronym with reference to his matrix theory of quantum mechanics, and to the uncertainty principle deduced by him in 1927. "Heisenberg's Principle of Indeterminacy lays it down that an electron may have a determinate position or a determinate velocity, but not both."

MUSEAU

(a) A person's face. In French, literally the muzzle or snout of an animal. "She, with her odd little museau, not exactly pretty, but very attractive."

LOONS

(c) A style of close-fitting casual trousers, widely flared from the knees to the ankles. From to loon, especially of young people, to spend one's leisure time in a pleasurable way, eg by dancing to popular music. To lie about or wander about. "I wriggled into a pair of brown velvet loons, dropped a cream lace tunic over them."

MORDIDA

(a) A bribe, an illegal exaction. In Mexico and adjacent parts. From the Central American, of the English "to put the bite on". "Just go see my friend, Sr G., at Gobernacion. He's such a good friend of mine that you'll not even have to pay a mordida."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Nc4! 2 Nxc6 Rf1+ 3 Bg1 Bc4+ 4 Qg2 Bxg2 checkmate

Bank 'back office' set for scrapheap

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE electronic revolution in banking will mean the end of the "back office" and the loss of thousands of jobs, according to a report from Ernst & Young, the accountant.

However, the need to maintain a relationship with customers should ensure the survival of the high street branch.

A global survey by the accountant's management consultancy side has found that the banking sector is on the point of launching so-called "one-touch" 24-hour home or telephone banking services, using the sort of

computer technologies that have created the Internet.

The result will be that in the banking world of the future, organisations will be rare that offer a high-quality general service at a low cost that customers are used to now. Andrew Barstow, partner in charge of the technology and banking consultancy, said a basic, cheap service would still be available, but the survey suggested that the more complicated "relationship banking" of the future would be more expensive.

This would be conducted through the existing branch network, and back office staff would either be retrained or lose their jobs. "One-touch" processing has a single person, whether a customer or a bank employee, completing a transaction electronically without further human intervention.

This will improve services for customers, but will mark the end of the traditional back office as the need for physical storage, retrieval and distribution of information gradually disappears.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6539 (+0.0189)
German mark
2.8647 (+0.0232)
Exchange index
101.2 (+0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2872.0 (-105.4)
FTSE 100
4593.9 (-189.2)
New York Dow Jones
7796.51 (+14.47)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
20385.54 (-142.81)

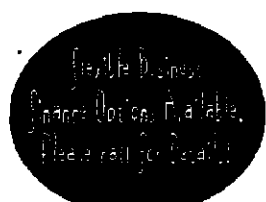
Looking Good...

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- 40W Subwoofer, Dolby® Pro Logic® Surround Sound
- ATI RAGE II+ Graphics Accelerator with 2MB SGRAM
- EuroViva 33.6K Fax/Data/Voice Modem
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CWC escalates phone tariff war

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE AND Wireless Communications, the group formed by the merger of four cable-TV companies, launched an aggressive telecommunications price war yesterday aimed at taking business customers from BT.

A new tariff — undercutting BT by between 39 per cent and 48 per cent — is now available in the areas covered by the four cable groups — Nynex, Bell Cablemedia, Mercury and Videotron. CWC's lowest daytime rate will be 1.8p per minute for local calls — 46 per cent below BT's. The national rate undercuts BT by 39 per cent and a five-minute call to the US will be 48 per cent cheaper. CWC is also offering lower line rental charges and connection fees.

The news comes as it emerged that Mirror Group's efforts to form a venture with Flextech to provide programming packages to CWC seem to have fizzled out. CWC said that it is in talks to buy content from Flextech but sees little role for the Mirror.

Graham Wallace, chief executive of CWC, confirmed that David Montgomery, chief executive of the Mirror, has promoted the idea of forming a venture with Flextech that

would supply programming and services to CWC. "He pursued the idea quite vigorously, but I don't see what the Mirror can bring to the table other than cross-promotion with the *Daily Mirror* paper," Mr Wallace said. "I think the whole Mirror thing has died a quiet death."

Flextech, the second-largest supplier of subscription TV channels after BSkyB, already supplies a dozen basic channels to the cable companies and has formed a joint venture with the BBC to create a family of BBC-branded channels. CWC wants to broadcast the Flextech-BBC channels and is in talks to determine how they would be branded.

Mirror was revealed last week as the Midlands Independent Newspapers suitor, publisher of the *Birmingham Mail* and *Coventry Evening Telegraph* and regional partner for Mirror's LiveTV cable service. The City expects a MIN bid to exceed £200 million, pushing Mirror's debts above £300 million.

The poor recent performance of Mirror's share price means that it is unlikely to use its shares to finance the deal. Mr Montgomery believes he can save £10 million a year



Graham Wallace, chief executive of CWC: "I think the whole Mirror joint venture thing has died a quiet death."

from MIN's costs, largely achieved through joint purchasing of newsprint while job cuts are expected to be limited.

In a separate development, Mr Wallace said that he hoped to strike a digital pay-per-view

film deal by the autumn. CWC will either negotiate pay-per-views rights with the six leading Hollywood studios on its own or use the service to be offered by BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News Inter-

national, owner of *The Times*. The advantage of going with BSkyB, he said, is avoiding "competing and conflicting services". He emphasised that no decision had been made. CWC wants to choose its

pay-per-view supplier, soon because it is considering launching digital TV services in its Manchester and Southampton franchises in the autumn. A national rollout would follow in the spring.

Social chapter in the firing line as Britain becomes more competitive

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LONG working hours, short holidays and low employment costs are pushing Britain up the European competitiveness league.

After questioning more than 8,000 small and medium-sized businesses in Europe, 31, the investment capital group, found that British employees work the longest hours in Europe. German workers put in the least hours, and additional employment costs were the lowest in the UK and the highest in Germany.

The findings will fuel criticism of the Government's plans for employment legislation through the social chapter and a national minimum wage. Critics will argue that flexibility has produced competitiveness.

Adam Quarry, marketing director of 31, said: "It remains to be seen if the introduction of the social chapter and minimum wage legislation in Britain will impact significantly on the ability of British firms to maintain their competitive edge."

The survey found that 31 per cent of Europe's workforce worked more than 40 hours and that no continental European workers reported working more than 50 hours. In Britain, 47 per cent of employees worked more than

40 hours and 9 per cent more than 50 hours.

The figures are far higher for managers, with 85 per cent working 40 hours or more. European law demands a maximum working week of 48 hours.

For holidays, the European average is 26 to 30 days. Some 94 per cent of German workers have more than 26 days a year and none have under 20 days. In Britain only 22 per cent of employees have more than 26 days, while 40 per cent have less than 20 days.

Low employment costs — such as social security, taxes and pensions — also boost the feeling of competitiveness for smaller companies. The survey found that half of the British businesses thought they were competitive, compared with only 4 per cent of German companies.

But on the social chapter UK companies were largely ambivalent, with 40 per cent believing it to be relevant and 40 per cent thinking it is not.

Mr Quarry said: "Whilst many continental European firms fear they are uncompetitive, British firms believe they are competitive. Whilst lower labour costs help to achieve this, it would appear that longer working hours and shorter holidays also play their part."

TENNIS

Reports from the first day at Wimbledon.

THE TIMES

ARTS

Richard Cork at Documenta, the world's biggest contemporary artshow.

IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

MUSIC

A review of Radiohead's new tour.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CRICKET

A look back at the second test in the Ashes series.

CHANGING TIMES

Industry 'in control over pay'

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PAY awards in industry remain under control, according to the Confederation of British Industry. Its survey published today found that pay awards in manufacturing for the three months to April 30 averaged 3.3 per cent.

This was slightly up on the 3.2 per cent average for the three months to March 31. The average settlement rate was 3.5 per cent in the same period last year. In the service sector, average pay awards were 3.5 per cent compared with 3.6 per cent for the three months to March 31.

The figures are in line with official data, which shows overall average earnings, including extra hours worked, rising at a steady rate of 4.5 per cent. A total of 37 per cent of manufacturers said inability to raise prices is keeping the lid on pay deals, while 18 per cent said the low cost of living was limiting awards.

Sainsbury store adds a surgery

By LIZANNE ROSE

J SAINSBURY — after expanding into banking and garden centres — is now to diversify from being a supermarket by opening its first walk-in medical centre.

The surgery, to be built beside Sainsbury's largest Sheffield branch, will accommodate four doctors. The supermarket chain was the first to accept a proposal by Sinclair Montrose Healthcare, which had approached more than 100 big retailers.

Sinclair Montrose will rent the land from Sainsbury on a ten-year lease. Although planning consent has yet to be given, it is expected that the Medicentre will open in October. Other Sainsbury sites are being considered for clinics.

Sinclair Montrose has a similar clinic at Victoria Station, in central London, and will open its second, at Euston Station, in three weeks' time. Consultations cost £32.

GOOD GUIDE



The Times Higher Education Supplement is essential weekly reading for anyone involved in higher education, training and research. On June 27 we're giving you even more of a reason to visit your newsagent. The first of The Times Good Teaching Guides will be published offering you facts, advice and inspiration to help you do a better job of helping your students learn.

In addition to offering practical advice and tips, the June 27 Good Teaching Guide will include:

- Views from students on what they really think of your teaching
- Exclusive coverage of the latest survey of academics' suggestions to improve teaching and learning in universities
- Profile of a star lecturer
- Plus a round up of essential new reading

Visit your newsagent on June 27

THE TIMES
HIGHER
EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

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social chapter in
the firing line as
Britain becomes
more competitive

France now seems to be on the last waltz — and the people sense it. That is why they are so gloomy. What she has before her, with or without the euro, is a drawn-out and painful period of structural adjustment of the sort that Britain underwent in the 1980s. That is why the French position is not to be envied, still less copied — whatever the current GDP statistics suggest.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1987 High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price per share	Yield %	P/E	1987 High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price per share	Yield %	P/E	1987 High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price per share	Yield %	P/E
129P	100P	12.20 AFA Systems	122P	12%	100	69P	47P	2.38 Fieldcrest	47P	3.9	27.4	50P	30P	6.47 Niles Polim	35
129P	125P	18.10 AMCO Corp	125P	12%	100	242P	206	6.28 Fair Foods	232P	8.1	31.1	50P	30P	1.86 Montrose Sec	35
129P	125P	60.70 AND W Pk P&S	125P	12%	100	142	102	1.42 Fed Mills	142	1.4	10.9	107P	107P	3.71 Omnica	107
100P	84P	16.30 Accura Recruit	102P	10%	100	200	169P	45.00 Fines Rmcs	153P	2	6.41	120	112P	4.40 Nucring Amer	120	+ 2	5.9
186	99P	25.90 Accura Pk	174	10%	100	230	145	3.77 Florio	230	3.8	11.6	167P	162P	15.30 Omnica	162	1.3	20.0
100P	99P	1.20 Ache Impreg	100P	10%	100	7.07	7.07	7.07 H&S	7.07	0.6	6.1	107P	107P	1.53 Omega	107
210	200	31.10 A de Gaudy	210	21%	42	11.7	32P	5.14 FHR Hlps	24P	97P	50P	1.83 On Line	55P
111P	51P	9.75 Altcan Gold	8P	132P	115P	12.50 Formica	117P	11.9	6.9	97P	50P	21.40 Ondine Biomedica	55P
114P	51P	10.40 Amtech	8P	132P	115P	9.50 Fountain Forest	117P	11.9	6.9	97P	50P	30.80 Onyx	55P
144P	31P	15.60 Altemark & De	26P	180P	160P	10.00 Frangipani	160P	3.9	...	169P	20P	12.70 Pm Andrus Res	20P
52P	32P	6.50 Altemark	26P	180P	160P	10.00 Frangipani	160P	3.9	...	169P	20P	3.68 Pm E&S Inc	20P
52P	32P	1.20 Anglo-Welch	26P	180P	160P	10.00 Frangipani	160P	3.9	...	169P	20P	1.20 Pm E&S Inc	20P
54P	45P	50.40 Am St Brewery	52P	236	139P	14.50 GB Holdings	165	1.4	...	57P	30P	4.73 Personal Net Co	30P
116P	101P	51.10 Am St Cr M	115P	35P	30P	16.50 Gold Thomson Env	32P	121P	30P	29.60 Pesa Diamonds	101P
116P	101P	51.10 Am St Cr M	115P	35P	30P	16.50 Gold Thomson Env	32P	121P	30P	29.60 Pesa Diamonds	101P
100P	112P	10.40 Amtech	112P	124P	102P	10.00 Frangipani	160P	3.9	...	169P	20P	1.20 Pm E&S Inc	20P
100P	112P	10.40 Amtech	112P	124P	102P	10.00 Frangipani	160P	3.9	...	169P	20P	1.20 Pm E&S Inc	20P
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100P	112P	10.40 Amtech	11														

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Big trouble in Little Moscow. But so what?

The search for a new police series format in television is relentless. If network executives are not commissioning foodie programmes, preferably featuring absurd shurpers, they are out soliciting new ways to deliver cops-and-robbers action. Every variety of police officer having been tried, from the disabled to the lesbian, the quest now switches to... the future.

This raises a dilemma. Set the place in the distant future and you will not have problems with criticism, relating to authenticity, for obvious reasons. Trouble is, the distant future can be expensive. For one thing, 500 years from now not many people will be running about in Ford Fiestas, which jacks up the cost of your street scenes.

But set the story in the near future, say, 25 years hence, and you might reasonably suppose that things will have changed, but

not all that much. So you use camera angles to give the impression that, for example, city centres have been pedestrianised. You can assume technology will have marched on, so your communications can have an Orwellian flavour, which costs very little.

Beyond that, there is not much extra money to be spent. Indeed, if I were the producer of *Police 2020* (ITV), I would have retreated to the wine bar after watching a final cut of last night's offering and sat down to wonder why the hell I had bothered to set it in the future at all. For the problem with *Police 2020* is that the format gets in the way of the story.

Just about any drama that turns up on screen at two hours long can be assumed to be a pilot for a series, but *Police 2020* is saying nothing about that in relation to this one. I have always been mystified as to why a drama series that will obviously run at one hour per

episode should require a two-hour pilot but I can tell you that if they had cut last night's story in half, it would have been plenty long enough.

The stunt of setting the story in the future was irritating but fortunately not terminal. The scene is set in a futuristic Manchester and we are asked to believe that between now and 2020 there has been some sort of social collapse in Boris Yeltsin's brave new world, with the result that Britain has a significant population of Russian immigrants.

Thus to the Little Moscow Estate comes Eddie Longshaw (Keith Barron), who takes hostages in a lift. His family has died in a TB epidemic which he blames on the immigrants, although the TB actually started long before the Russians arrived. The usual subplot concerns the two police officers leading the hostage rescue, played by

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Liam Cunningham and Rachel Davies, who are rivals for a senior job.

Therefore we have a bigot who deserves some sympathy because of losing his family, plus two police officers playing out a standard-issue rivalry scenario. The promised technical wizardry is humdrum and bigots taking hostages is hardly a plotline that needs the perceptive abilities of

Arthur C. Clarke. In a sentence, *Police 2020* is a banal drama which had a decent script (by Paul Abbott of *Cracker*) but not much else going for it.

One other thing not going for it was the rival BBC1 scheduling: you had to miss the climax of *Plotlands* and the whole of *Born to Run* to see *Police 2020*, which would not have been much of a deal in my view. Not that I have been the greatest champion of *Plotlands* (BBC1), but at least its final episode last night was less glum than the opener I reviewed six weeks ago.

Saskia Reeves has been excellent as Chloe Marshall, the woman who flees her drunken and violent husband to set up home on a new development in Essex. This being the turn of the century, the development consists of tents, but Chloe and her two daughters seemed to be making some sort of new life for themselves.

Last night the most dreaded figure in any woman's life turned up at the tent: not a husband who is still drunk, but a husband who claims not to have had a drink for six weeks. A likely story.

It lasted for one night, during which the husband raped his wife and slapped his children. As the sun set on the series, the husband was kicked out, which passed for a happy ending.

Heaven forbid that television critics should ever be let loose as programme makers, but the daft idea of asking four theatre critics to direct productions at the Battersea Arts Centre made an entertaining edition of *The Works: It Might Be Alright on the Night* (BBC2) last night. The critics included Jeremy Kingston of *The Times* but the programme concentrated on the efforts of Nicholas de Jongh and James Christopher.

I suppose that to criticise a programme in which critics direct plays and people who normally direct plays criticise the critics-directors is to be so abstruse that even Samuel Beckett might balk at my cheek, but this programme tried to do too much. By which I mean, it was too short.

There was plenty of de Jongh, who can play the luvvie as if to the manner born ("It took him ten days to get a bulldog clip for his script," an actor said of him). But we saw little of Christopher, nor was there much of Max Stafford-Clark and Stephen Daldry, the directors who reviewed the hapless critics.

If journalists are going to be foolish (or sporting) enough to offer themselves for ritual humiliation, surely the proceedings should be played out on television at greater length than this. Where was the blood? Where the tears? None of either. Yab boo.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (71781)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (83430)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (5397052)
9.20am Cheesecake Challenge: Transforming a crab city skyline (3218235)

9.45am K9 (7147473)

10.25am Who'll Do the Pudding? Chilled gazpacho, lots of pork with peach chutney, and midsummer pudding are prepared by chefs Nick Naim, Paul Rankin and Sophie Grigson (1095854)

10.45am News (T) and weather (8270694)

10.50am Crick: Second Test: England v Australia. Tony Lewis introduces coverage of the final morning at Lord's. Commentary by Richie Benaud, David Gower, Ian Chappell and Geoffrey Boycott (9382101)

12.30pm Neighbours (T) (4354830)

1.00am News (T) and weather (85525)

1.30am Regional News (1641801)

1.40am Wimbledon. 97 Coverage of the first afternoon's matches following the opening of the new No 1 Court by the All-England Club's President, the Duke of Kent. Defending men's champion Richard Krajicek of Holland follows tradition and is first into the fray on Centre Court (95785014)

4.10am Backstreet (978217) 4.15 Casper (980195) 4.35 Fun the Risk (964810) 5.00am Newsround (T) (3261323) 5.10am Blue Peter (T) (7028525)

5.35am Neighbours (T) (1193965)

6.00am News (T) and weather (304)

6.30am Regional News (656)

7.00am Big Break: Dennis Taylor and Dave Harold are joined by Oliver King at the snooker table (T) (8762)

7.30am Mastermind: Contestants get their heads around questions on Eton John, the life and works of Arthur C. Clarke, the 58-year reign of Franz Joseph, and thespian drinkiness. Hosted by Magnus Magnusson from the debating chamber of the Cambridge Union Society (T) (168)

8.00am EastEnders: Simon tries to scupper Tony's efforts to maintain a low profile, while Robbie is stopped in his tracks by Sonia's revelations (T) (7410)

8.30am The Peter Principle: Lottery winner Iris is assured the highest rate of interest when she agrees to deposit her nest egg with bank manager Peter Duffley. Comedy, starring Jim Broadbent (T) (3217)

9.00am News (T) and weather (5897)

9.30am Birds of a Feather: Sharon attempts to get her ban from entering the house lifted by appealing to her better half (T) (33559)

10.00am Panorama: Hard-hitting reports on issues making the headlines (T) (46185)

10.40am Wimbledon: Jack the Lad. Rosehill gives a personal account of his career (T) (32125)

11.35am Bar Mitzvah: Boy Play by Jack Rosenthal with Jeremy Steyn, Adrienne Posta and Miffie Charles. Thirteen-year-old Eliot is bewitched by the hysteria surrounding his imminent Bar Mitzvah. His sister, however, is all not well and puts it down to nerves (T) (325298)

12.50am Weather (145258)

VideoPlus and the Video PlusCode. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the VideoPlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (TM), (TM), (TM) and Video PlusCode are trademarks of Videomatic Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Just Like a Girl (3085762) 6.25 The Golden Thread (3004897) 6.50am Developing Language (T) (7905526)

7.15am See Hear: Hearabout Show (T and signing) (1614507)

7.30am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (6522101) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (2714762) 8.20am Brum (T) (2815269) 8.35am Raccoons (T) (2371878) 9.00am Tex Avery (T) (3118168)

9.10am The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (T) (3218694)

9.35am Preserving for the Taste of It (T) (4308472) 10.00am Teletubbies (38491)

10.30am Face to Face: Bob Monkhouse (T) (1758052)

11.10am The Trouble with Men (T) (T) (3973256)

11.50am Johnson and Friends (650385)

12.00am Wimbledon 97 and Cricket: Second Test Desmond Lynam and Sue Barker present the start of two weeks of live action from the All-England Club, where the world's greatest players have gathered once more to contest the third leg of tennis's Grand Slam. Cricket: Further coverage from the final day of the second Test between England and Australia at Lord's. Includes news; regional news and weather at 3.00 and 3.55 (3613965)

Juliet heads for Georgia (8.30pm)

8.30am The Travel Show: In the first of a new series Juliet Morris samples the food, hospitality and culture of Georgia, previously a part of the Soviet Union. Plus: two very different holidays on the Côte d'Azur and a couple learn to sail in Greece (1859)

9.00am The Vicar of Dibley: A falling tree destroys St Barnabas's stained-glass window during a violent storm, and Geraldine is put in charge of raising funds (T) (T) (3439)

9.30am Today at Wimbledon: Sue Barker introduces highlights from the Centre Court (T) (30830)

10.28am Video Nation: Hong Kong Shorts (234033)

10.30am Newsnight: Gavin Esler (T) (431217)

11.15am Crick: Second Test: England v Australia. Richie Benaud presents highlights of the fifth and final day's play at Lord's (706675)

11.55am Weather (298856)

12.00am The Midnight Hour: Political chat, with Sir Bernard Ingham (12992)

12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Cine Cinephiles (94553) 1.00am Pienze: A Renaissance City (70365) 1.30am Corbuser and the Villa La Roche (19336) 2.00am Night School: Te: Seeng Through Science (83347) 4.00am BBC Focus: Italia 2000 (22415) 4.30am Royal Institution Discourse (17502) 5.30am RCN Nursing Update (13521)

BBC3

6.00am GMTV (9176439)
9.25am Supermarket Sweep (T) (3224255)
9.55am Regional News (T) (4918586)
10.00am The Time, the Place (32217)
10.30am This Morning (T) (6532323)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (1387694)
12.30am News (T) and weather (430255)
12.55am The Pulse (T) (4355948)
1.25am Home and Away (T) (1101168)
Side Effects (T) (1061851) 2.40am Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (1/2) (T) (7376472)
3.20am News (T) (3533052)
3.25am Regional News (T) (3532323)
3.30am Caribou Kitchen (3343410) 3.40am Toiv (T) (829481) 3.50am Where's Wally? (T) (5923946) 4.15am Woolf (T) (576743) 4.45am On Your Marks (T) (6630762)
5.10am Highway to Heaven (1/2) (8258120)
5.40am News (T) and weather (336743)
5.57am Pollen Count (834236)
6.00am Home and Away (T) (1101168)
6.25am HTV Weather (230639)
6.30am The West Tonight (T) (192)
7.00am Wheel of Fortune (T) (3830)
7.30am Coronation Street: Vera is in for a shock on her return to the Rovers (T) (236)
8.00am World in Action: An insight from World in Action, the programme at the centre of Jonathan Aitken's abandoned libel action, into the theory which brought down the former cabinet minister (T) (9678)
8.30am Turner Round the World: Anthea Turner reports live from a mystery location, offering the trip of a lifetime to the first viewer to guess where she is (8385)

9.00am Bramwell: A terminally ill patient makes what appears to be a miraculous recovery. Dr Marsham is sceptical, but an encounter with a faith healer makes him realise she has a lot to learn. With Kevin McKinnon (T) (7007)

10.00am News (T) and weather (12878)

10.30am Regal News (T) (63966)

10.40am Alien (T) (1992) with Guyon Weaver, Charles Dance and Charles S. Dutton. When officer Ripley lands on a bleak, alien planet, a gruesome wave of slaughter begins. Directed by David Fincher (T) (1068778)

12.40am Shadows of the Past (1991) with Erik Anderson, Nicholas Campbell and Richard Bury. A woman awakens from a near-fatal car crash with amnesia. As her memory slowly returns, she learns some horrifying facts about her past life. Directed by Gabriel Pelletier (679724)

2.25am Club Nation (T) (T) (6220960)

3.25am G's Gift (T) (1367521)

4.20am Sound Bites (98718927)

4.30am World in Action (T) (T) (88908)

5.00am Coronation Street (T) (T) (57540)

5.30am News (17347)

McMonagie is mystified (9pm)

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9.00am Bramwell: A terminally ill patient makes what appears to be a miraculous recovery. Dr Marsham is sceptical, but an encounter with a faith healer makes him realise she has a lot to learn. With Kevin McKinnon (T) (7007)

10.00am News (T) and weather (12878)

10.30am Regal News (T) (63966)

10.40am Alien (T) (1992) with Guyon Weaver, Charles Dance and Charles S. Dutton. When officer Ripley lands on a bleak, alien planet, a gruesome wave of slaughter begins. Directed by David Fincher (T) (1068778)

12.40am Shadows of the Past (1991) with Erik Anderson, Nicholas Campbell and Richard Bury. A woman awakens from a near-fatal car crash with amnesia. As her memory slowly returns, she learns some horrifying facts about her past life. Directed by Gabriel Pelletier (679724)

2.25am Club Nation (T) (T) (6220960)

3.25am G's Gift (T) (1367521)

4.20am Sound Bites (98718927)

4.30am World in Action (T) (T) (88908)

5.00am Coronation Street (T) (T) (57540)

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HTV

6.00am GMTV (9176439)
9.25am Supermarket Sweep (T) (3224255)
9.55am Regional News (T) (4918586)
10.00am The Time, the Place (32217)
10.30am This Morning (T) (6532323)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (1387694)
12.30am News (T) and weather (430255)
12.55am The Pulse (T) (4355948)
1.25am Home and Away (T) (1101168)
Side Effects (T) (1061851) 2.40am Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (1/2) (T) (7376472)
3.20am News (T) (3533052)
3.25am Regional News (T) (3532323)
3.30am Caribou Kitchen (3343410) 3.40am Toiv (T) (829481) 3.50am Where's Wally? (T) (5923946) 4.15am Woolf (T) (576743) 4.45am On Your Marks (T) (6630762)
5.10am Highway to Heaven (1/2) (8258120)
5.40am News (T) and weather (336743)
5.57am Pollen Count (834236)
6.00am Home and Away (T) (1101168)
6.25am HTV Weather (230639)
6.30am The West Tonight (T) (192)
7.00am Wheel of Fortune (T) (3830)
7.30am Coronation Street: Vera is in for a shock on her return to the Rovers (T) (236)
8.00am World in Action: An insight from World in Action, the programme at the centre of Jonathan Aitken's abandoned libel action, into the theory which brought down the former cabinet minister (T) (9678)
8.30am Turner Round the World: Anthea Turner reports live from a mystery location, offering the trip of a lifetime to the first viewer to guess where she is (8385)

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ROGER BOOTLE 45

 French lessons
for the
UK economy

BUSINESS

EU ENFORCER 46

 Competition
champion's
air challenge


BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JUNE 23 1997

NatWest takes action to repel bidders

BY JON ASHWORTH

NATWEST GROUP is set to mount a fierce rearguard action this week, amid speculation that its financial woes have made it a prime target for a takeover bid.

Lord Alexander of Weald, chairman of NatWest, and Derek Wanless, group chief executive, are to meet leading institutional investors after reports that banking rivals are circling. Barclays and Bank of Scotland have been mentioned as bidders, while an unnamed investment bank is believed to be working on a break-up plan. Any bid for NatWest would have to value the bank at more than £15 billion.

NatWest has been left dangerously exposed by events at

NatWest Markets, its investment banking arm, which lost Martin Owen, its chief executive, a week ago. His resignation was accompanied by a profits warning.

Sir Andrew Large, outgoing chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), has been tipped as a possible successor. Another is Simon Robertson, former deputy chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, who is set to become a partner in Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, but has yet to seal the appointment.

Mr Wanless stepped in as acting chief executive of NatWest Markets, which was rocked in March by the dis-

covery of a £90 million "black hole" in its interest rate options book. Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, is preparing a report on the circumstances of the losses. Leading NatWest investors, including Prudential Corporation, and Mercury Asset Management, are expected to voice concern at meetings scheduled for the next few days.

Barclays yesterday dismissed as "speculation" reports that it was considering an opportunistic bid for NatWest, which recently broke off preliminary merger talks with Abbey National. An unnamed Barclays source was quoted as saying the timing for a bid could hardly be better, adding: "NatWest's share price is low, its management discredited, its shareholders worried and it is in a highly vulnerable position."

Barclays and NatWest combined would create a banking force to rival Lloyds TSB. They speak for nearly 50 per cent of business customer accounts and each have about 20 per cent of current accounts. Any attempt to combine would almost certainly invite a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Barclays is preoccupied with events at Barclays de Zoete Wedd (BZW), its investment banking arm, which is struggling to grow market share. Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, favours harnessing the bank's internal strengths where possible.

Bank of Scotland dismissed as "speculation with no substance" a report that it was looking at ways of reversing into NatWest. NatWest has arguably the strongest retail banking presence in the UK, but is the most slowly rated of the big banks. The City believes that too much money has gone into building its investment banking. NatWest Markets last year poached a trio from Morgan Stanley on a combined package thought to be worth \$50 million. One Hong Kong-based trader was reportedly signed for \$15 million over three years.



Good figure: Harvey Nichols is expected to report a 40 per cent advance in profits

Department stores in vogue

THE successful expansion of Harvey Nichols in Leeds and the recovery in fortunes at House of Fraser have helped department stores to become one of the most successful sectors in retailing (see page 12). A report out today from Corporate Intelligence on Retailing says that the top 50 department store groups increased sales by 5.7 per cent in 1995-96 and are predicted to grow 10 per cent in the current financial year.

This good news will be backed up by figures today from Harvey Nichols, showing full-year taxable profits up 40 per cent at nearly £13 million. It has been helped by the Leeds store

and the opening of its Oxo Tower restaurant overlooking the Thames in London.

The growth of department stores has been fuelled by the success of fashionable concessions such as Oasis, Kookai and Karen Miller. Chains including Debenhams, Bentsalls and John Lewis have recently reported sales growth of more than 9 per cent. Even House of Fraser, the underperformer of the sector, saw a 4.9 per cent advance in like-for-like sales in the 16 weeks to May 17. House of Fraser is due to unveil its own brand in the next few weeks, a launch that will involve three womenswear ranges and two in menswear.

Lawyers beaten by insurance actuaries in wage league

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

INSURANCE actuaries, who have long suffered from a reputation as quiet, bespectacled, dull statisticians, are now Britain's highest-paid professionals with average salaries of £90,000 eclipsing even those of corporate lawyers.

Salaries for actuaries have soared in recent years as a legacy of the pensions mis-selling scandal. There are still relatively few qualified actuaries, and the complexities of risk assessment in general insurance and the increase in takeovers and mergers of insurance companies mean they are in huge demand. This has been amplified by the pensions mis-selling scandal, where actuaries have been needed to calculate how much people lost when they were sold the wrong pension.

Those actuaries who leave number-crunching to become entrepreneurs can command salaries of up to £350,000, which puts them on a par with the chief executives of some FTSE 100 companies.

Even those who stay in the profession and have seven years of experience in general insurance can expect an average pay packet of £90,000. This puts them well above patent agents, who earn an average of £79,000, and lawyers, who earn an average of £40,000 at the same stage in their careers. Actuaries in life insurance earn slightly less than their colleagues working for the companies.

Although some lawyers in the City earn substantially more than this, the average is reduced by the inclusion in the calculations of those who work for clients with legal aid or who have practices in rural parts of Britain.

The research by GAAPS, the specialist recruitment agency, found that insurance actuaries headed the pay league table for the first time.

Actuaries have seen a sizeable increase in their combined salaries and benefits over the past few years. Recently qualified members of the profession saw an average rise of more than 17 per cent last year to £50,500 from £43,000 in 1995.

Dr Geraldine Kaye, who

trained as an actuary and founded GAAPS five years ago, said: "The research also showed that those actuaries who left university with a first class degree qualified up to two-and-a-half years earlier than those with second class degrees."

The better-paid actuaries also enjoy pension contributions, private medical insurance, a company car and a performance-related bonus. Dr Kaye said: "Being an actuary is a great way to earn a lot of money, and that's one of the reasons I went into the profession."

Earnings of 'top cats' nudge £1m

BY FRASER NELSON

BRITAIN'S largest 100 quoted companies provide their top executives with an average pay package of nearly £1 million each.

Research conducted by The Times shows that "swelling share-option schemes" last year fuelled an average 17 per cent rise for the highest-paid directors of FTSE 100 companies, giving an average remuneration of £980,000.

However, the same companies were less generous to staff, who were awarded an average pay increase of 7 per cent over the year.

Over the past five years, the average salary paid to general employees of FTSE 100 companies has risen by 47 per cent, while the average package awarded to the highest-earning director has jumped by 113 per cent.

John Browne, chief executive of British Petroleum, took home £2.54 million last year after cashing in £1.7 million from a long-term share performance plan. Bill Harrison, chief executive of Barclays de Zoete Webb, was awarded £3.14 million for 1996, largely because of a £1.5 million golden hello to lure him from Robert Fleming.

Thomson to sell travel business

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THOMSON Corporation, the Canadian publisher, is holding talks with City investment banks in preparation for a trade sale of Thomson Travel Group, its tour operator.

British Airways, Carlson Travel and Tui, the largest tour operator in Germany, are regarded as prospective buyers. BA is keen to gain a foothold in the package holiday industry and Carlson, which is in negotiations to buy Inspirations, another UK tour operator, has made no secret of its expansionist ambitions.

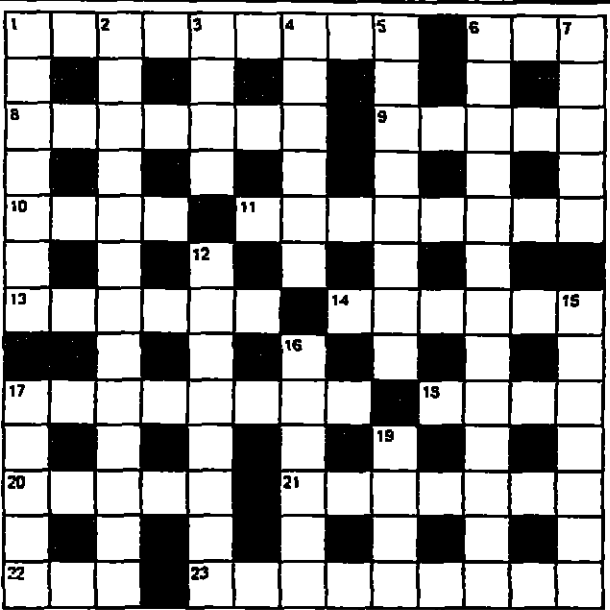
Sources in the industry say the trade sale could be completed by next March. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Goldman Sachs are among those being considered as financial advisers for the sale.

Thomson Corporation

wants to hive off its travel business, which comprises Thomson Holidays, the biggest tour operator in the UK. Lunn Poly, the high street travel agent, and Britannia Airways, the charter carrier. The Toronto parent has made no secret of its wish to concentrate on its core information and publishing business, and needs money to fund acquisitions.

Thomson Holidays and Airtours, its biggest rival, control 50 per cent of the £7 billion overseas package holiday market in the UK. Last November they were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for alleged anti-competitive practices. The MMC investigation is likely to take until this November. But travel companies believe it could be February before the results are published.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1127

ACROSS

- 1 Ardent emphasis (9)
- 6 Chinese cooking pan (3)
- 8 Young hare (7)
- 9 Paved area by house (5)
- 10 Oh dear! (4)
- 11 NY borough, has Bridge (8)
- 13 Rib area (6)
- 14 Insect, chirps (6)
- 17 Column base (8)
- 18 Boundary, advantage (4)
- 20 Responsibility for crime (5)
- 21 Person's soldier (7)
- 22 Rigid stick (3)
- 23 "The barge she sat in..." speaker (A & C) (9)

DOWN

- 2 Doughty (7)
- 3 Be seriously purposed (4,1,4,4)
- 4 Notice, stain (4)
- 5 Oath administrator (6)
- 6 Rapture (8)
- 7 Understood (5)
- 12 Tape container (8)
- 15 Classic, not becoming dated (7)
- 16 Poetess of Lesbos (6)
- 17 Radio bleep (5)
- 19 Peru city; sounds like arboreal primate (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1126

ACROSS: 1 Be my guest 6 CAP 8 Befog 9 Beeline 10 Sloppy 12 Congo 13 Forage 14 Harvey 17 Eagle 19 Anita 21 Slender 22 Bravo 23 Wad 24 Diligence

DOWN: 1 Baby 2 Muller 3 Gig 4 Embryo 5 Trenchant 6 Cairn 7 Plenary 11 Pig-headed 13 Fretsaw 15 Villain 16 Patrol 18 Greed 20 Yoke 22 Bog

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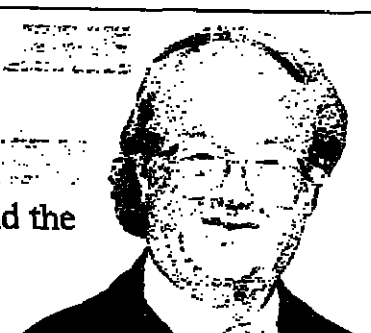
LYNNE TRUSS

My first taste of Henmania
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Mortimer and the underworld

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My children want me here, UN is told 'Save the planet' plea to world leaders by Blair

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN NEW YORK

TONY BLAIR yesterday called on world leaders to save the planet for their children and grandchildren. He urged them to match Britain's ambitious target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by a fifth within 13 years.

In a plea to 70 heads of government at the United Nations in New York the Prime Minister used his family to press home his message that the big industrial nations such as America would fail future generations unless they stopped the "special pleading" and acted now.

Arriving in New York from the Denver "G8" summit — where Japan and America provoked anger by resisting targets for reducing greenhouse gases — Mr Blair spoke of the European Union's "challenging" target of cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 15 per cent below their 1990 level by 2010. He added that Britain was ready to go further by adopting a 20 per cent target.

But Mr Blair struck a distinctly personal note at the biggest world gathering he has yet addressed. He usually keeps his children out of the limelight. However, he said that this was his fifth international meeting in eight weeks in office, and his three young children complained that he was never at home. "But if there is one summit they would want me at, it is this one," he said.

He underlined his commitment to the environment and tackling world poverty by heading a powerful British delegation, which included John Prescott, his deputy, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Clare Short, the International Development Minister. The conference is reviewing progress since the Rio Earth Summit five years ago.

Mr Blair promised "significant" measures — including more efficient use of transport, improved energy

conservation, and greater use of renewable sources of energy to help Britain reach the target. Ministers also privately accept that green taxes, particularly on fuel, will rise as the Government tries to encourage people to use public transport.

Mr Blair's aides responded to scepticism over the 20 per cent objective by emphasising that the Prime Minister, by his cabinet appointments, had shown how serious he was. Mr Prescott, head of the super environment-transport ministry, and a long-standing advocate of a properly integrated transport system, was reported to be passionate about the Government's commitment, and already driving forward the agenda.

Although Mr Blair was unspecific in his address, other ministers referred to measures such as greater use of bus lanes, requiring companies to increase their energy efficiency, cutting down energy waste, particularly using waste heat from power stations, and increasing the attraction of public transport.

At a meeting earlier with the heads of some of the leading environmental pressure groups, Mr Blair said that climate change, the protection of forests and the oceans, and providing clean water should be world environmental priorities.

He acknowledged the obvious disappointment among environmentalists about the Denver summit's outcome, but insisted that progress had been made in making the developed countries understand that they had to show a lead to the developing world.

Mr Blair also backed the international target of reducing absolute poverty in the world by 2015. In his speech, he announced that Britain would increase its development assistance for forestry management

and provide new benchmarks for the regeneration of forests. "It takes less than an hour to fell a tree. It can take a lifetime to replace it," he said.

But Mr Blair then criticised countries that had failed to deliver on the Rio targets, saying: "Our targets will not be taken seriously by the poorer countries until the richer ones are meeting them." He added, in a clear warning to America and Japan: "We are all in this together. No country can opt out of global warming, or fence in its own private climate. We need common action to save our common environment."

He said that at the Kyoto environmental conference in December, there must be "legally binding" targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. "The biggest responsibility falls on those countries with the biggest emissions."

Returning to his theme of saving the world for the next generations, he added: "If we fail at Kyoto, we fail our children, because the consequences will be felt in their lifetime."

"This Earth is the only planet in the solar system with an environment that can sustain life. Our solemn duty as leaders of the world is to treasure that precious heritage, and to hand on to our children and grandchildren an environment that will enable them to enjoy the same full life that we took for granted."

Speaking later at the United Nations, Mr Cook forecast that there would be wars over water unless tension was defused. He said: "I firmly believe the environment is going to rise higher on the international agenda. I see it as being of the first importance to the world as a whole."

Carbon cuts, page 16
Sue Cameron, page 22
Leading article, page 23

Henman introduces new court in style

BY STEPHEN FARRELL, JOANNA BALE AND JOHN GOODBODY

Britain's Tim Henman swept through his first round match in straight sets on the new No.1 court yesterday after it was inaugurated on the opening day of the Wimbledon championships by a parade of former winners.

The cheering 11,000 crowd, including girlfriend Lucy Heald and fans sporting Union Jacks painted on their faces, saw the British No.14 seed win a rain-interrupted match in one hour, 44 minutes. Applause greeted almost every move of his as he survived a tie-break in the opening set to defeat Daniel Nestor of Canada 7-6-6-1-6-4.

Earlier, 10 former champions spanning half a century and 41 singles titles were welcomed by nostalgic spectators. The line-up was led by Louise Brough, four-time winner between 1948 and 1955, followed by Rod Laver, Margaret Court, Billie Jean King, John Newcombe, Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, John McEnroe, Boris

Becker and Pete Sampras.

The ten champions, all of whom had won three or more individual titles, were each presented with a silver commemorative trophy by the Duke of Kent, President of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, on a red carpet laid across the grass.

Ball boys and girls bearing the flags of all 58 nationalities taking part in the 111th championships lined the court as the announcer, John Barrett, paid tribute to the champions' achievements, calling Laver "on his record, arguably the greatest of all men's champions". The new court, costing an estimated £50-£75million, seats 11,432, 5,000 more than its predecessor. Four storeys high, it is countersunk into the hillside on the north side of the Wimbledon complex to avoid overshadowing Centre Court.

Leading article, page 23
Photograph, page 26
Tennis, pages 48, 49, 50, 52

Pound at five-year high against mark

The pound surged to a post-ERM high as interest rate and Budget worries continued to dominate the markets. It reached a five-year high against the German mark, climbing from DM2.8647 to DM2.8673.

Sterling also made ground on the dollar, rising a cent to close at \$1.6447, while its trade weighted index also reached a new post-ERM record of 1015.5 up 0.3 on the day. Traders expect the pound to push towards DM2.90 soon. But the stock market slipped again with the FTSE 100 closing down 18.1 points at 4,575.8. Page 27

Korea set to invest £5bn in Britain

Korea is to invest up to £5 billion in Britain over the next five years. Downing Street said after talks on the fringes of the New York summit between Tony Blair and Kim Young Sam, the Korean President, that Korea considers Britain to be an ideal site for industrial companies.

It was also disclosed that the Queen will make a state visit to the Korean capital of Seoul in 1999.



Dr Rachel Padman, who says she is willing to resign if colleagues are unhappy about her

All-women Newnham split on don who had sex change

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE sole remaining all-female college at Cambridge University has broken 126 years of tradition by admitting to its fellowship a woman who started life as a man.

The decision to admit Dr Rachel Padman, 43, as a fellow of Newnham College has caused discord among senior academics, including Germaine Greer, the leading feminist who is a member of the college's governing body.

Although Dr Padman, a physicist specialising in star formation, underwent a sex-change operation to become a woman in 1982, legally she remains a man. According to the statutes of the college, which was founded in 1871, all fellows must be women.

Although Dr Padman advised Dr Onora O'Neill, Newnham's Principal, of her past before taking up her fellowship last October, news is only now beginning to circulate in the college. The issue has caused disharmony and brought distress to Dr Padman, who is a committed and well liked teacher.

Dr Greer, who admires Dr Padman's work, is horrified that she has been admitted as a fellow because of the apparent breach of college statutes. "We have driven a coach and horses through our statutes and I can't believe we did it. It's disgraceful that Dr Padman has been placed in this situation. It makes me very angry," she said.

Although Dr Greer regards sex-change operations as mutilations,



Greer: "We feel we have been made monkeys of"

her opposition is based on principles not personality, she said.

"I like Dr Padman. We all know she is a distinguished physicist, but what is the point of having clear statutes if we just ignore them? We should have answered these questions before her appointment. We have to be true to the spirit of the original bequest to the college as a women's college for women."

Dr Greer said her position was supported by a number of senior colleagues. "Our position is not that Dr Padman should resign but that she should never have been placed in this situation in the first place. The dignity of the college is marred by this unfortunate event."

She added that many members of the governing body, which includes

all fellows, were unaware of Dr Padman's change of sex. "Dr Padman's past was kept secret from us on the governing body. We were told by people outside the college making fun of Newnham and, frankly, we feel we have been made monkeys of," Dr Greer, whose first instinct was to resign, is now considering calling an emergency meeting of the governing body to discuss the matter.

Dr O'Neill, who became Principal in 1992, declined to discuss the legality of Dr Padman's appointment. "I am not a lawyer," she said. Dr Padman's status was known to senior staff who wholeheartedly support her, Dr O'Neill said. "Dr Padman's change of state is ancient history. Furthermore it is not secret, covert or unknown among colleagues. Naturally, there will be some colleagues who know more and some who know less. I continue to give all the fellows my full support," she said.

Dr Padman, who, like Dr Greer, was born in Australia, said she would consider resigning if colleagues were unhappy with her position at the college. "If I thought there were any significant number of women in the college who were, despite what I perceived, unhappy about me being there because of my past, then I would resign. Obviously, I don't want to go because it would be losing something I love. It is an exhilarating feeling being surrounded by clever and intelligent women," she said. Dr Padman

Continued on page 2, col 7

Labour halts foreign aid with strings

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND NICK NUTTALL

THE link between Britain's £2 billion overseas aid budget and domestic sales of arms and construction projects is to be severed by the Government.

The decision, announced yesterday by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, to stop using the aid budget for "trade sweeteners" triggered a controversy over British jobs versus ethics.

In one of the most radical steps taken by the Labour Government, investment in the "tiger" economies of Asia will be halted. The money will be concentrated on the poorest. The diseased and starving of Africa will get priority.

The connection to British commercial considerations in the 35-year-old overseas aid programme was built in by the Thatcher Government in 1980. But Ms Short decided that the link should be broken.

Tory MPs fear that the move could jeopardise thousands of jobs in the construction and arms industry. More than 50 per cent of the overseas aid spending is linked directly to sales of British products, services and expertise.

Nigel Evans, the MP for Ribbles Valley whose biggest employer is British Aerospace, said: "Labour sounds more and more sinister when it walks on to the high moral ground." He said aid-receiving countries could misinterpret the "buy anywhere" policy.

But Robert Archer, a member of the policy team at Christian Aid which works extensively in Africa, said: "I am delighted that aid should be given on merit and not tied to domestic sales."

Ms Short said countries receiving British aid will no longer be forced to buy British products such as Land Rovers. She said the way in which British aid had been run under the previous Government had been wasteful and worked against helping the world's poorest. The previous policy, which tied receiving countries into spending up to 60 per cent of the grant on British goods, "distorted what you could spend".

The new policy will target more aid in Africa and will focus spending on education, health and drinking water schemes. Aid to Africa will be increased from £250 million to £350 million over the next three years.

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The minister for gags cartwheels towards his pratfall

The Commons Chamber yesterday rang to the sound of Labour backbenchers doing donkey imitations: "Eeyore! Eeyore!" they brayed. It was what we expect of our representatives, the topic of the afternoon being the Arts and National Heritage.

What had provoked the animal noises? Crispin Blunt, the new Tory MP for Reigate, had asked the first question on the Order Paper and it fell to the incoming Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, to reply. On yesterday's showing, Mr Smith has cast off the air of an earnest and slightly flushed young Anglican curate in a

crumpled jacket, bicycling around an urban parish, and emerged as a crisp Cabinet Minister, not above landing a kick in an unprotected Tory stomach.

The opportunity was provided by Mr Blunt. Blunt had, Smith told us, "made an unforgettable contribution" to his party's election campaign by remarking that "you could put up a donkey as candidate in Reigate, and still win". Mr Smith stopped short of suggesting that Mr Blunt had proved it. Backbench yobs did not stop short. The eeyores started. Tony Banks looked disappointed not to be allowed



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

to join in. This notable wag and Labour MP for West Ham has been made a Heritage minister with special responsibilities for sport. A secretly thoughtful man, Banks is also crude, insolent and funny. He now becomes the joker in Tony Blair's pack.

Mr Banks cannot see an opportunity for tomfoolery without taking it. Friends give him, until Christmas as a minister. When guiding (say)

an alcoholic or compulsive eater, we would choose routes which did not take them within sight of a bar or bakery. On the same principle, Mr Banks's civil servants should ensure that their minister does not come within ten yards of a joke, lest he damage himself. As a child, Banks must have been told "it isn't clever and it isn't funny" a million times. We treasure him. Responsible journalists close ranks to prevent him letting himself down

and I will not therefore report that the Sports Minister blew me a kiss as I entered the Gallery.

Hansard will, however, report that on being asked a worthy question about Saddleborough Museum by Phil Woolas (Lab, Oldham & Saddleworth), Mr Banks proved incapable of being witty in reply.

"Will you pay us a visit to see our beautiful culture in Saddleworth?" asked Woolas. Banks was struggling to keep a straight face. "I do know where it is," he grinned, to backbench incredulity.

Banks tried to take a grip. "I must be serious," he told himself, as he has told himself so many times before. He wiped away the grin.

"It's the most interesting place to visit in the constituency," he lost it. "Probably the only interesting place."

He made a final attempt to reassert ministerial gravity, telling us that every constituency, including his own in London's East End, contained heritage jewels.

Then levity got the better of him. In Newham "the outfall sewage walk is one of the most treasured in British tourism." And so we leave Mr Banks,

cartwheeling towards the graveyard of his Cabinet hopes.

Ah well, pomposity would never have suited him anyway, and for as long as he groans under the whip of collective ministerial responsibility, a free spirit is lost to the world of politics. Spineless young political wannabees are as plentiful as jelly-babies, but there is only one Tony Banks.

As I left, he was telling Liz "Blackman" (Lab, Erewash) about the Millennium Fund. "That's a matter for the Dome Secretary."

It isn't clever, Minister, and it isn't funny.

PM news may go in Radio 4 shake-up

One of Radio 4's longest running news programmes, PM, could disappear under the BBC's plans for a fundamental shake-up of the station. The popular early evening news magazine, which began in 1970, has been identified as a possible weak spot in the schedule and is being reviewed by the controller James Boyle.

BBC insiders say Mr Boyle and PM's editor Kevin Marsh, who also edits *The World at One*, are discussing whether PM is a "current affairs show too far". Some executives have suggested that since it is immediately followed by the six o'clock news, it represents too much current affairs. They may replace it with a lighter discussion programme.

Claim settled

A former Wren who lodged an industrial tribunal claim against the Royal Navy after 15 months of verbal and sexual harassment agreed an out-of-court settlement yesterday believed to be worth about £80,000.

In a case backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, the 27-year-old woman claimed that she had been reduced to a state of severe stress and depression.

Don's pay protest

A Cambridge lecturer has brought the university's budget to a standstill as part of a campaign for a more wide-ranging promotion system for dons. Gillian Evans, a medieval historian, has forced a ballot on the £142m spending plans, due to be passed on Friday, which will delay acceptance until the autumn. The university said the "minor inconvenience" would not prevent payment of salaries.

Optical illusion

Opticians claiming for spectacles not supplied or tests not carried out are the biggest cheats in the National Health Service, defrauding it of millions of pounds a year, according to a survey.

"Smaller opticians say they do this to be competitive with bigger chains," said John Flook, of the Healthcare Financial Management Association committee, which produced the report.

Obesity cure

Two children may be cured of obesity at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, with regular injections of the hormone leptin. Doctors discovered that a rare genetic mutation prevents them from making leptin, which tells the brain the size of the fat stores in the body, and helps to control the amount eaten. A similar mutation was discovered in mice by a team at Rockefeller University, New York.

Insecticide case

A farmhand who says he suffered mental impairment because of exposure to an organophosphate insecticide launched a claim against his former employers for more than £50,000 in damages in the High Court yesterday.

Rapid return

Guests on the inaugural run of the 100mph Heathrow Express spent 40 minutes waiting for the train to be towed back to the depot when the train broke down. The new train, one of 14 being built at a cost of £440 million, had just left the depot near Acton, northwest London, when it suffered a power failure. Passengers included BAA's chief executive, Sir John Egan, and senior airline officials.

'Breakthrough' in Ulster deadlock on IRA disarmament

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN NEW YORK, AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE British and Irish governments have agreed a new approach to IRA arms decommissioning aimed at breaking the deadlock in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Downing Street yesterday played down claims by John Bruton, the outgoing Irish Prime Minister, that the deal, negotiated over the past three weeks, amounted to a breakthrough. Mr Bruton's assertion came after an unscheduled 20-minute meeting with Tony Blair at the United Nations environment conference in New York.

Mr Bruton, who stands down on Thursday, said that the joint Anglo-Irish paper on decommissioning could provide a "rapid forward movement" in the peace process.

Aides travelling with the Prime Minister said that to claim an "agreement" had been reached overstated the mark. They made plain that whatever the two governments agreed had to be acceptable to the main parties in Northern Ireland. They pointed out that the Unionists still wanted the IRA to start decommissioning before Sinn Féin's entry to the talks. That is not acceptable to the SDLP, which believes that decommissioning should start only once

there is substantial progress in the talks. However, the Northern Ireland Office confirmed that the two governments had finalised a paper on decommissioning and Mr Blair is expected to outline the details in a Commons statement tomorrow. Downing Street said that the Prime Minister was trying to move the peace process forward.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, confirmed last night that the two governments had reached agreement on a joint decommissioning paper. "I am pleased we have now developed a set of 'possible conclusions' which we

Woman suspect in IRA killing

A woman in her 20s may have been part of the IRA gang that shot dead two police officers in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. Detectives yesterday appealed for information about the woman who was seen pulling a shopping basket in the town centre before the shooting. The woman was dressed as though middle-aged. Constable John Graham and Constable David Johnston were shot last Monday.

believe could win general support," she said. "These proposals are not specifically a response to any questions posed by Sinn Féin. It has been clear from the outset that the multi-party negotiations had to address the issue of decommissioning and that is the agenda item we need to complete within the coming weeks if substantive negotiations are to commence in the autumn."

Mr Blair will be cautious about being seen to meet Sinn Féin demands so soon after the Lurgan killings of two police officers. He has been pleased by the apparently changing mood in the United States towards Sinn Féin. He spoke in New York yesterday to Al Gore, the American Vice-President, and half of their 30-minute meeting was devoted to Northern Ireland.

Mr Blair is to meet David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, and his deputy, John Taylor, at Downing Street today; and, later, John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP. He wants to consult them before his statement on Wednesday, in which he is expected to spell out what the Government put to Sinn Féin before the Lurgan killings.

Peace plea, page 4



Scargill: pit sell-off blamed for charities' problems

Scargill forced to stand down as welfare chairman

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT AND RUSSELL JENKINS

ARTHUR Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, was yesterday suspended by the Charity Commissioners from his position as chairman of the trustees of two miners' welfare charities.

He was served with the order at the NUM headquarters in Barnsley, south Yorkshire, early yesterday after an investigation by the commission into alleged mismanagement and maladministration of the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Trust Fund Scheme and the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Convalescent Homes.

It is understood that the Charity Commission is concerned about a grant of £800,000 from the scheme to the charity, which runs two convalescent homes for ailing and retired mine workers on the coast near Scarborough. There have been complaints that Mr Scargill and his fellow trustees from the NUM pushed through decisions about the cash without proper consultation.

The suspension is the latest blow to Mr Scargill, who has presided over the diminishing fortunes of the NUM and whose Socialist Labour Party was swept aside as a political irrelevance at the general election.

It is believed that the investigation is linked to Mr Scargill's political opposition to paying costs for certain

miners' welfare projects, which used to be covered by the Government.

After the pits were sold, "partnership funding" was introduced. Mr Scargill claims that has resulted in trusts and charities now having to pay half the costs towards projects to help disabled mineworkers and to send miners and their widows to convalescent homes.

After a meeting with lawyers yesterday, Mr Scargill attacked the former Conservative government and blamed coal privatisation for the problems surrounding the charities. He insisted that the trustees of the miners' welfare scheme, including those nominated by British Coal, agreed unanimously in May 1995 that it was in the best interests of the trust and its beneficiaries not to accept "partnership funding."

Mr Scargill said: "The trustees, including myself as chairman, have continued to take advice from the trusts' legal advisers... and are satisfied that at all times the trustees and I have acted in the best interests of the beneficiaries."

The commission is apparently concerned that Mr Scargill's approval of the transfer of a grant of £800,000 from the welfare trust scheme to the convalescent homes effectively rendered the money unavailable for use in partnership-funded schemes.

Police expected to seek interview with Aitken

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

SCOTLAND Yard officers investigating allegations of perjury are this week expected to seek an interview with Jonathan Aitken, the disgraced former Cabinet minister.

As the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury remained in hiding after capitulating in his High Court libel action against *The Guardian* and Granada Television on Friday, police studied the case papers and other evidence provided by the two organisations.

Mr Aitken, 54, who faces costs of £2 million, is meanwhile the subject of a growing clamour to strip him of his status as a Privy Counsellor. Ann Taylor, leader of the Commons and Lord President of the Privy Council, is understood to have discussed his position with officials before the monthly meeting of the council later this week.

Senior Conservatives are privately calling on Mr Aitken to resign from the council, the Queen's circle of advisers, to prevent more embarrassment. Only the Queen has the power to strip a Privy Counsellor of his office but she acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Privy Council.

The *Guardian* has asked

police for charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice to be considered against not only Mr Aitken, but his wife, Licia, his daughter, Victoria, 17, and Said Ayas, his Saudi business partner. All made witness statements corroborating the former MP's account of a visit to the Ritz hotel in Paris, which was shown to be false, and were to have given evidence on his behalf.

Mrs Aitken — Mr Aitken announced before the end of the trial that they are separating — was to have testified that she had paid the hotel bill in cash after a family weekend in Paris, but it emerged during the hearing that it was paid by Prince Mohammed bin Fahd of Saudi Arabia and she and her daughter had been in Geneva at the time.

Sources in Paris confirmed yesterday that Mr Ayas, principal aide to Prince Mohammed, has been detained in Saudi Arabia for three weeks under the orders of the prince. Mr Ayas is said to have been anxious to give evidence at the libel trial but was flown back to Saudi Arabia to brief the prince, where he was arrested to save the Saudi royal family from scandal.

Newnham

Continued from page 1
was initially reluctant to join Newnham because of her operation and rejected the first letter of approach from Dr O'Neil.

"I wrote back to her saying that there was this in my past and that I wouldn't want to bring the college's name into disrepute. I said I didn't think me joining was a good idea," she said.

Dr O'Neil replied saying she was already aware of Dr Padman's sex change and again inviting her to join the college.

Last October Dr Padman took part in a ceremony at the Principal's Lodge admitting her to the fellowship. She swore an oath promising to uphold the Newnham's best interests.

One way to resolve the situation could be for Newnham to vote to admit men as fellows. Dr Greer said. The last time the issue was debated in 1990, it was rejected by a small majority.

If there were to be a vote, however, Dr Padman said she would oppose the admission of men. "Newnham is the only college I would like to be associated with because of its special status. I like women and I like the idea of an all-women environment."

"If there is another vote I would want to keep Newnham single sex. I think the admission of men would lead to a diminution of opportunities for women in Cambridge and I want to keep the college's special status."

Children keep Blair on green path

BY JAMES LANDALE AND POLLY NEWTON

TONY BLAIR'S disclosure in New York yesterday of his children's interest in green issues reflects the growing importance of the environment as a political issue among young people.

The Prime Minister said that, although his children complained he was never at home because of a string of international meetings, they had told him that the Earth Summit was the most important. This is another policy which Mr Blair says must pass the "Euan test", namely whether it will meet with the approval of his 13-year-old son. He recently said that plans for the Millennium Festival in Greenwich should be exciting enough to attract his children.

Mr Blair has visited six countries, two continents, and spent seven nights out of

the country since he became Prime Minister eight weeks ago. He makes no secret of the fact that he misses his children — Euan, Nicholas, 11, and Kathryn, 9 — and they are in his thoughts. "I speak to you not just as the new British Prime Minister, but as a father," he told the United Nations yesterday.

Downing Street sources said ministers were aware of the importance of the environment to young people and said that the Government's approach reflected that. "We recognise that the Government must start listening to young people and start acting on what they say," one source said.


"The environment was an issue that hardly figured during the election cam-

paign, but it is at the top of many people's political agenda."

A spokesman for Friends of the Earth said: "By far the majority of our inquiries are from young people. They have become very disillusioned with the way things were going." Most of the people protesting against road and airport projects were young, he said. However, most young people appeared to favour single-issue pressure groups rather than party policies.

An important part of the Government's plans to take people off the dole is to use part of the revenue raised from the proposed windfall tax on an environmental task force. Labour believes that every government department must promote policies to sustain the environment.

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LEGOLAND WINDSOR

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Second resignation as hospital admits blame for smear-test death

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A HOSPITAL admitted yesterday that a woman probably died because staff failed to notice from a smear test that she was suffering from cancer. More than 50 other cases claiming damages for failure to report the tests properly are pending.

The admission of responsibility for came as the Government ordered an independent review of failures in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital's cervical smear-testing programme and as James Bird, chairman of the NHS trust, announced he was following his chief executive, Edward Pearson, into early retirement.

Mr Bird said in a statement that organisational changes "and the need to recover from the impact of the recent cervical-screening problems" had led to his decision. His retirement from the end of September followed an announcement from the hospital's solicitors "that on the balance of probability the

death of a patient was caused by the negative reporting of a slide".

The statement said the case was not straightforward because the cancer was unusually aggressive and it was impossible to say with absolute certainty that misreporting led to the patient's death. "The trust has admitted liability because it is anxious to deal with the case promptly and sympathetically, with a view to early settlement and to avoid lengthy legal proceedings."

Five other cases involving women who died of cancer after

smear tests at the hospital are pending as well as a further 47 cases of women who are still alive after treatment. An East Kent Health Authority spokesman said last night that it had already agreed there would be a quick out-of-court settlement in every case where independent tests showed there had been misreporting of the original smear slide. "We do not want these people to have to go to the extra trauma of a court hearing," the spokesman said.

The health authority ordered the

largest rescreening in British medical history in February last year after concerns about the accuracy of the tests at the hospital. Independent laboratories studied 91,000 slides that had been reported negative between 1990 and 1995. More than 5,500 women were recalled for further tests, which found that 1,800 women were wrongly given the all clear.

The national target for reading smear tests correctly is 85 per cent, but at the Kent hospital that had fallen to 81 per cent, with evidence

that up to 1993 the figure was as low as 66 per cent. Recent research suggests that about 30 other hospital trusts perform no better.

Announcing that he would lead the independent inquiry, Sir William Wells, chairman of the South Thames Region of the NHS Executive, said there would be "a rapid but thorough review of exactly what went wrong and why." The work would be finished by September when a report will be sent to Baroness Jay, the Health Minister in charge of cancer testing.

"There can be no doubt that public confidence in local cervical screening services has been damaged by these failures," Sir William said. "I am determined that any lessons to be learnt from the Kent and Canterbury experience are learnt so that public confidence can be restored."

Smear tests are no longer carried out at Kent and Canterbury and the hospital's £298,000 contract to do 62,500 tests a year has been awarded to the William Harvey Hospital at Ashford.

Police step up hunt for murderer of the little girl with the big voice

By RICHARD DUCE

A MURDERED music student was remembered by her family last night as "the little girl with the big voice" as police stepped up the search for her killer.

Ryan McEwan-King, 22, who was 4ft 8in and weighed 5 stone, was sexually assaulted and strangled as she walked to her flat in Northampton at the weekend. She was studying music and drama at the town's Nene College and expected her final examination results tomorrow.

Her parents, Robin, 54, and Margaret, 52, farmers from Nempthar, South Lanarkshire, were told of her murder at the Royal Highland Show, where they had won a prize for sheep that their daughter had helped them to prepare. They last saw her alive two weeks ago on her birthday, and she spoke to them on the telephone the night before she died.

Mr McEwan-King said last night: "She had such a beautiful voice." His daughter was due to graduate in a four-

night's time after completing her three-year college course.

A murder inquiry involving 70 police officers was launched on Saturday afternoon when Miss McEwan-King's body was found near a bowling green in the Racecourse park. She was naked but for six rings on her fingers. Her killer appears to have lain in wait for his victim.

Police moved two women out of the flat in Northampton they shared with Miss McEwan-King, because her door keys were stolen by the killer.

Detective Chief Inspector David Armiger described yesterday how Miss McEwan-King went out last Friday night to visit the Romany public house in Northampton where she regularly performed as a karaoke singer. She arrived by taxi at 8.30pm but left just before she was due to sing at about 10pm and went to the nearby Frog and Fiddler, another karaoke pub. She left at 11.30am to take the

five-minute walk home across the park.

Two residents living near where her body was found in a hedge heard a woman's screams between 11.30pm and midnight on Friday. Neither called the police. Miss McEwan-King's body was found by a woman walking her dog on Saturday at 2.55pm.

Detectives also know that many people had walked past the spot without realising that Miss McEwan-King's body was in the bushes. On Saturday, Matthew and Jane Rawson had wedding pictures taken near the hedge where the body was found.

Police say there have been a number of incidents of indecent exposure in The Racecourse.

Her father said last night: "Music was her first love. She was extremely gifted. One of the things I remember about Ryan was during a service at Carlisle Cathedral. She was only five years old and she got

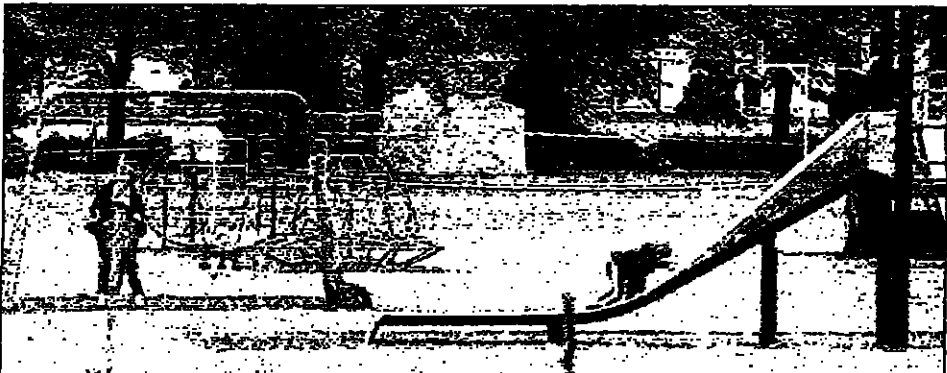
up and walked to the centre and sat on a stool. She waited until the audience was quiet: even then she could hold an audience. Then she said, 'My name is Ryan and this is my guitar. It's not a full-sized guitar, but I'm not a full-sized person'."

Miss McEwan-King had a part-time job with Marks & Spencer and also worked as a student guide at Nene College of Higher Education, showing prospective students round. Geoffrey Middleton, the college's head of corporate affairs and marketing, who recruited student guides, said: "She was one of the best student guides. She was very friendly and outgoing. She was a highly intelligent girl who was highly committed to her studies and had a great personality."

Brian Redmond, 40, who organises karaoke nights in Northampton, said: "We used to call her the little girl with the biggest voice. She used to send off tapes to talent shows. She wanted to make it big and she certainly had the voice for it."

Bernie Clarke, the landlady of the Romany, said Miss McEwan-King "was such a tiny little thing that it wouldn't have taken anything to harm her, one slap would have done it."

Alan Murdoch, landlord of the Frog and Fiddler, said: "You get a lot of singers at karaoke nights but she was one of the best - I can still see that face and that incredible voice coming out of that tiny little body."



The Racecourse in Northampton, where Miss McEwan-King's body was found



Ryan McEwan-King, 22, who from the age of five could captivate an audience

Husband put rival's clothes in cesspit

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE owner of a country guesthouse dumped a customer's clothes into a cesspit after he discovered the man was having an affair with his wife.

Maurice Findlay told the court how Anthony Terry, 49, a salesman, was a regular bed-and-breakfast guest at his farmhouse. One night Findlay, a sign-writer, returned home to find the salesman in bed with his wife, Kathy. The couple had a furious row and Mrs Findlay, 49, banished her husband to another bedroom.

Mark Layton, for the defence, detailed how Findlay had spent years restoring the £150,000 Know Farm at Keaton, Leicestershire. Angered by his wife's infidelity, Findlay gathered up six dustbin bags of Mr Terry's clothes and threw them into a septic tank.

Mr Terry said that the ruined clothing included hand-made Italian suits worth a total of £4,900. But the court refused to make a compensation order after being told that some of it had been discovered at Mr Terry's former home in Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcestershire. The value of the damaged clothes was put at £2,900 by the court and is due to be settled in another hearing.

Findlay admitted criminal damage and was given a conditional discharge by Herefordshire magistrates yesterday. Findlay, 50, who called the dean of the local cathedral as a character witness, and his wife are divorcing. She has moved out to live with Mr Terry.

Suicide pact by odd couple who disowned family

By TIM JONES

A COUPLE, who decided ten years ago, for no apparent reason, to pretend that the daughters they loved no longer existed, have killed themselves because they feared no one would care for them as they grew old.

To neighbours, Walter and Eva Willard were a "smashing couple" but the net curtains of their immaculate semi-detached home disguised the turmoil of their strange existence during a marriage which lasted 43 years.

The pair, who preferred to be known as Tony and Doris, shocked their two children, Julia and Sheila, when, without reason or warning, they decided they would never speak to them again. They went to extraordinary lengths to banish them from their lives.

Suddenly, the pair behaved as though their daughters were complete strangers. They no longer sent Christmas cards or birthday presents and would not talk to the women on the telephone. If they happened to meet them when they were shopping, they would not look them in the eye. Neither Mr Willard, 79, or his wife, 78, ever set eyes on their four grandchildren.

One occasion Mrs Willard, who was working part-

time at a hospital shop, hid from her granddaughter Annette as she left the maternity ward after giving birth to a baby boy.

The pair also took sudden and unexplained dislikes against people who had known them for years, ignoring them as they would total strangers. But in spite of their bizarre behaviour, they appeared to most acquaintances to be a fairly normal couple.

While Mrs Willard kept house, her husband, a former accountant, tended the garden of their home in Orpington, southeast London, and spent most mornings polishing his Hyundai car.

But as they settled into retirement, they grew increasingly alarmed that there would be no one to care for them. Their fear of lonely old age overwhelmed them at the weekend and they killed themselves by attaching a garden hose pipe to the exhaust of the Hyundai.

Their daughter, Julie, 50, who lives with her partner close to her parents' home, said: "There were no arguments or anything like that. They just decided not to speak to us. We were completely ignored. It was as if they just wanted to close that chapter of their life."

Girl, 7, left to die in her room after three-day beating

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A GIRL aged seven is thought to have been kept prisoner and beaten for three days at her home in Manchester before she was left to die.

Suzanne Rarity's body was discovered on Saturday night in her bedroom in the terraced house in Moss Side she shared with her mother and nine-year-old brother, Sandy.

Police confirmed last night that she suffered a "sustained and severe assault" at the hands of her killer. Detectives have set up a murder incident room and are looking for a man who moved in with the dead girl's mother, Angela Rarity, three months ago.

He vanished from the house, leaving behind a ram-



Suzanne body found under the bedclothes

bling note, which apparently referred to missing property and told her to call the paramedics because there was nothing that could be done for Suzanne. Her body was found hidden under the bedclothes in her room.

Suzanne had not been seen outside the house for several days. She had apparently been held captive during that time and punched, kicked and abused. A post-mortem examination showed she had died from multiple injuries.

The family moved to Moss Side a year ago. Ms Rarity is separated from her husband, who lives in Glasgow with the couple's eldest child. Neighbours said she worked as a cleaner and her children, who attended Wilbraham Infants School, used to play in the street with other children until the new boyfriend moved in three months ago.

Detective Superintendent Arthur Provost, the man leading the murder hunt, said: "We are dealing with a sustained attack on a defenceless and vulnerable seven-year-old child which has tragically ended in her death. Our sympathies are with the relatives of this little girl."

Last night, Ms Rarity was being questioned by detectives.

Radio 1 looks back in anger over Oasis

By CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BBC RADIO 1 is involved in a war of words with a small Scottish radio station after it was beaten in the battle to be the first to broadcast the long-awaited new single by Oasis.

Radio 1 DJs publicly accused Forth FM of skulduggery after the station scooped the BBC's exclusive first broadcast of Oasis's much-hyped *D'you know what I mean?*

Oasis's record company, Creation, had promised Radio 1 a world exclusive on the single, the group's first record for a year. In return, Radio 1 is playing it every hour as well as the three other tracks on the EP. However, 35 minutes

before it was played by Radio 1's Jo Whiley, Forth FM in Edinburgh stole the BBC's thunder by playing the track, which executives had secretly acquired.

Lawyers for Oasis are trying to establish where the leak occurred. Radio 1 DJs, meanwhile, launched a furious attack on the commercial station. On his morning show, Simon Mayo said bitterly: "The new Oasis single - you heard it here last."

Jay Crawford, head of music at Forth FM, said that executives in Scotland had been staggered by the vindictiveness of the BBC's response. He said that he had acquired a copy of the single by calling in a few favours.

"We really are surprised that an organisation the size of Radio 1 can't be a

bit more magnanimous about it," he said. "They really are very bad losers and think they have God-given rights. The suggestion that we somehow recorded the song off Radio 1 is ridiculous since they first broadcast it at 12.45pm on Friday and we broadcast it 35 minutes earlier at 12.10pm."

"Now I have got Oasis's lawyers on to me asking where the leak is in their security. Radio 1 is under so much pressure due to falling audiences, it just can't take it. The station really is a minority broadcaster up here."

Radio 1 said: "We had an agreement with Creation that we got it first. We have heard there was another station which played it before us but we don't know where they got it from."

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Girl's peace plea to Blair wins her a day off school

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL from Belfast who moved Tony Blair with a powerful plea for peace said yesterday that she was astonished when the Prime Minister quoted from her letter on American television.

Margaret Gibney, a 12-year-old Protestant from the Shankill area, said she never believed that her simple message would strike a chord with the Prime Minister. She said she hoped that the publicity from her heartfelt plea would encourage the IRA to restore its ceasefire.

Margaret was feted by staff and fellow pupils at Mount Gilbert Community College in North Belfast after Mr Blair told ABC television that her letter had strengthened his

resolve to achieve peace in Northern Ireland. As she walked through the corridors of the college from one media interview to another, a teacher shouted out: "You're a star!"

Margaret wrote the letter as part of a school project. She also wrote to the Irish pop band Boyzone. "I haven't got a reply from them yet, but that would be even better," she said.

In the letter to Downing Street last month, she wrote: "I live in the Shankill Road district of Belfast, an area that has seen a lot of trouble. In my whole life I have only had one year of peace, so peace is very important to me."

The letter was one of scores sent by first-year pupils at the

college to world leaders and prominent figures in the United Kingdom and Ireland asking for their views about peace. The pupils asked the recipients to send back a poem for peace and a photograph to be displayed on a Peace Wall at the back of their classroom.

Downing Street said yesterday that Mr Blair had selected the words to *The Green Fields of France*, an anti-war song recorded by, among others, the Fureys about Willie McBride, a young soldier who died in the First World War.

Margaret, who was excused classes yesterday as she fielded calls from the world's media and Downing Street, said she hoped that terrorists would listen to her plea. She

said that she was desperate for the IRA to abandon its terrorist campaign because of the transformation of Belfast during the 18-month ceasefire. "The peace was so good because we could go shopping in town without worrying. But now I'm dead scared and I have to stay in my own area," she wrote.

The school's Peace Wall features an array of letters and poems from across the world. Hillary Clinton told the pupils that she was moved by the "warmth and goodwill of the Irish people" on her visit to Belfast with President Clinton in November 1995.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin President, and the broadcaster Sir David Frost both selected the W.B. Yeats poem, *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, for the Peace Wall. It contains the memorable line "peace comes dropping slow".

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, quoted from King George V's speech in Belfast City Hall at the State Opening of the Northern Ireland Parliament in June 1921. The King said: "I appeal to all Irishmen to pause, stretch out the hand of forbearance and conciliation, to forgive and forget, and to join in making for the land which they love a new era of peace, contentment and goodwill."

David Ervine, spokesman for the Progressive Unionist Party, the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, sent the Siegfried Sassoon poem *Suicide in the Trenches*.

POEMS FOR PEACE

□ Tony Blair chose *The Green Fields of France*, by Eric Bogle (1st verse)
Well how do you do young Willie McBride,
Do you mind if I sit here down by your graveside.

And rest for a while 'neath the warm Summer sun
I've been working all day and I'm nearly done.
I see by your gravestone you were only nineteen
When you joined the great fallen in nineteen sixteen.

I hope you died well and I hope you died clean
Or young Willie McBride was it slow and obscene?

□ Robert Brown Associates
□ Gerry Adams chose: *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, by W.B. Yeats (extract)
I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,

And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattle made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

□ David Ervine, spokesman of the Progressive Unionist Party, chose *Suicide in the Trenches*, by Siegfried Sassoon

You smug-faced crowds with kindling eye
Who cheer when soldier lads march by,
Sneak home and pray you'll never know
The hell where youth and laughter go.



Margaret Gibney, who says she is desperate for the IRA to renew its ceasefire

Scandals blamed for fall in numbers at Mass

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A SERIES of sex scandals has badly damaged the authority of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland and contributed to a large fall in Mass attendance, according to a report published this month.

Freedom of Religion and Belief charts the weakening dominance of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It says that scandals such as the one over Bishop Eamonn Casey, who was revealed to have an 18-year-old son, are partly to blame for a drop in Mass attendance of up to 20 per cent. Even so, nearly 92 per cent of the Republic's 3.5 million population are Catholics, and up to 80 per cent of those attend church weekly. Even more damaging than Bishop Casey's resignation in May 1992 has been the rash of child sex abuse scandals that have come to light since mid-1994.

The report, edited by Sir Kevin Boyle and Juliet Sheen of Essex University, says that these have precipitated what even official spokesmen have described as the worst crisis faced by the Church in Ireland this century.

The child sex abuse scandals began with the case of a priest convicted of abusing children in his care over nearly 40 years. The case led eventually to the resignation of Albert Reynolds as Prime Minister and the collapse of his Government.

More court cases and newspaper exposes of priests abusing children followed. "For a people which had placed such a near-absolute trust in its priests, this had a shattering effect on the Catholic Church's traditional moral authority," the report says.

□ *Freedom of Religion and Belief: A World Report* (Routledge: £16.99)

CORRECTIONS

□ The League Against Cruel Sports does not support the use of hounds to flush out foxes for shooting (report, April 4).

□ The Prime Minister is honorary president of the Commons and Lords Tennis Club; the chairman and club captain is Sir Michael Spicer, MP (report, yesterday).

□ The Orchard Tea Gardens, Grantchester, Cambridge, has not closed (article, June 11) and is celebrating its centenary.

□ The Barbican Centre has eight wheelchair-accessible toilets for disabled patrons visiting the theatres (article, June 17).

Unmarried mothers 'killed war babies'

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UNMARRIED mothers turned to murdering their newborn babies in Ireland during the Second World War, after travel restrictions prevented them from going to Britain for abortions, according to a film premiered in Dublin last night.

Back-street abortions had been easier to obtain in Britain, but Ireland's wartime neutrality meant the journey was no longer possible. According to the documentary *Infanticide in Modern Ireland*, the known rate of child-killing rose from two cases per year to about ten after contraception was made illegal in 1935 and the wartime travel ban was imposed.

Nicola Lafferty, director of *Infanticide in Modern Ireland*, said: "If the woman had successfully concealed the pregnancy and had the child, she would do anything to stop being found out."

Drowning and smothering

were among the methods used to kill newborn infants. Alexis Guilbride, on whose research the documentary was largely based, said that almost all of the babies killed were illegitimate. Until 1949 the punishment for infanticide was death. At least two women were sentenced to hang by the Central Criminal Court.

The introduction of the 1949 Infanticide Act reduced the penalty from murder to manslaughter if the woman was considered insane.

In most cases after 1949, the murder charge was reduced to unlawful concealment of a death, and the women were sentenced to work in the laundry houses of the Magdalen convents, the last of which closed in Dublin only last year.

Most of the women who went into the convents remained there for the rest of their lives.

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Dentistry tops pay league for graduates

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENTS looking for high salaries should head to dentistry departments and put all thoughts of theology out of their heads, a survey submitted to the Government's review of higher education suggested yesterday.

A ten-year study of 18,000 graduates showed enormous variations in earning power, with some subjects leading to salary levels twice as high as others. The results will strengthen the case for differential fee levels when Sir Ron Dearing's committee reports next month.

Surveys of graduate employment are usually taken only six months after graduation, and tend to suggest that employment prospects differ little between subjects. But the study by Birmingham University academics shows that stereotypes reassert themselves as careers develop.

At the extremes, male dentists who graduated in 1985 were earning an average of £41,692, while their counterparts in theology were struggling on £14,243. Among women graduates, electrical engineers were the biggest earners, on an average of £34,686, while chemical engineers averaged only £15,217.

Among non-vocational subjects, male economics graduates secured the highest rewards after ten years, at almost £35,000 a year, while philosophers barely topped £15,000. Other top salaries for women, who had slipped 13 per cent behind men by 1996, were in law and dentistry.

The research, presented to the Society for Research into Higher Education yesterday, shows that higher education remained a lucrative proposition for students seven and 12 years ago. Men who graduated in 1985 were earning 30 per cent more on average than those who went into employment with A levels or their equivalent. The premium enjoyed by women graduates was 46 per cent.

But Clive Belfield, who outlined the findings at a conference in London, said it was doubtful whether the "rate of return" from higher education was still sufficient to justify a degree course in purely financial terms.

Job prospects differ little just after graduation, but ten years on the gaps widen, according to research that will strengthen the case for fee differentials at university

cial terms. "The variations between subjects are such that there would seem to be scope for fees in dentistry, for example, but they might decimate a subject such as sociology."

However, the survey suggested that money was not the prime motivation for most students. Self-development and an interesting career played a greater part than future earnings in rating the decision to go to university.

Nor did pay levels dictate graduates' views of whether they had made the right choice. The vast majority of those answering questionnaires said they would take a degree if they faced the choice again, although fewer than half would take the same course. German and social policy graduates were the most likely to regret their choice.

The study found a similar pattern in the class of 1990 to that of 1985. Small numbers of graduates in some areas made comparisons unreliable, but the survey suggested that the subject taken was a better indicator of future prosperity than the class of degree ob-

tained. Those with a first or upper second were only 4 per cent better off than the rest after ten years.

Most graduates responding to the survey thought they had gained in the jobs market from higher education, but had not found personal fulfilment. Dr Belfield said: "Being a graduate does not make you any happier because graduates tend to be a bit serious about themselves."

A second study outlined at the conference, by academics at Warwick University, showed that graduates who went to university straight from school with A levels did better in the jobs market than those from less traditional backgrounds. Older students and those from working-class backgrounds lacked confidence in applying for higher education, faced greater financial hardship and were more likely to be disappointed with their first job after graduation.

Mapping the careers of highly qualified workers (Birmingham University School of Education, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT)



Open for business: male dentists who graduated in 1985 were earning an average of £41,692 by 1995

From theology to Spice Girls

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THEOLOGY and philosophy degrees do not necessarily mean a life of penury, despite their place at the bottom of the graduate earnings table.

Barnaby Thompson says he owes his success as a film producer to studying theology and philosophy at Oxford. The 36-year-old is producing *Spice The Movie*, the Spice Girls' first foray into film-making, which

will net his company, Fragile Films, a six-figure sum. Mr Thompson is coy about his earnings, but it is safe to say he earns more in a month than a year's labour by those contemporaries at Regent's Park College, who followed their calling into the clergy. The average salary of a vicar is about £14,500, archdeacons can expect £21,000 and diocesan bishops £23,500.

Mr Thompson, who co-produced *Wayne's World* among several other Hollywood comedies, set up his own production company in London seven months ago. "My degree helps me in everything I do," he said yesterday, speaking from the set of the *Spice Girls* film. "My experience was that it was the process of learning which helps you, not what you learn."

Mr Thompson is also living proof that academic success is not necessarily an indicator of future earnings. He got what he describes as "a very good third-class" degree.

The trust, in a pre-Budget submission to the Chancellor, said that unless the Government provided quality childcare at prices most families could afford, its *Wellfare-to-Work* drive to get lone parents off benefits would not succeed. A spokesman said: "Without affordable, quality childcare, parents on lower incomes are hampered in their efforts to make a living and their children are trapped in a cycle of disadvantage."

Working mothers pay £6,000 a year for childcare

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

MANY working mothers are spending almost twice as much on childcare as on housing or food bills.

The average two-parent family with two children has to pay at least £6,000 a year on formal childcare with a nanny, childminder or nursery, compared to less than £4,000 for housing or food, according to a report by the Daycare Trust. In some parts of the country, a full-time nanny can cost £13,500 a year.

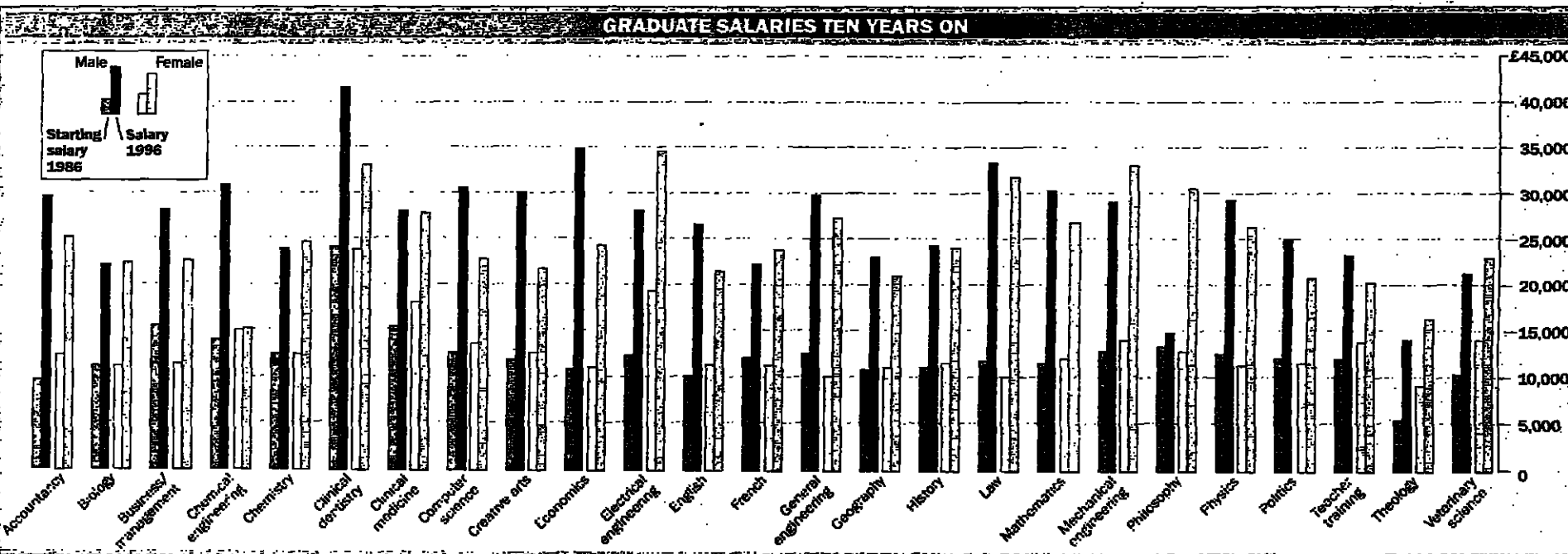
Only 25 per cent of working parents can afford to pay for full-time childcare, the trust said. Some use a mix of paid and unpaid care, but by far the greatest proportion of working mothers — more than 45 per cent of the total — are forced to rely on unregulated, informal and often unreliable childcare provided by family or friends.

The trust, in a pre-Budget submission to the Chancellor, said that unless the Government provided quality childcare at prices most families could afford, its *Wellfare-to-Work* drive to get lone parents off benefits would not succeed. A spokesman said: "Without affordable, quality childcare, parents on lower incomes are hampered in their efforts to make a living and their children are trapped in a cycle of disadvantage."

The trust wants a £70 weekly childcare allowance, funded from the utilities windfall tax, to enable lone parents and families on low incomes to get back to work. The trust estimates that 450,000 families could benefit from such an allowance, directed at people on low incomes or the unemployed with children aged 14 or under.

Although such an allowance would require a budget of £350 million a year, the real cost to the Exchequer, after allowing for savings in benefits and increased tax revenue, would be £200 million, the trust estimates.

Colene Kelleher, director of the trust, said: "The Government should also look at start-up grants to kickstart new childcare services, such as early excellence centres, nurseries, childminders and out-of-school clubs; options for tax relief; and incentives for employers to share the costs of childcare."



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When sudden stress can trigger genetic diseases

A HIGH COURT judge has awarded £337,617 damages to a 47-year-old chauffeur who developed the first symptoms of multiple sclerosis three months after being injured in a road accident. The man also suffered mild head injuries, pelvic damage and a whiplash injury. The accident has been blamed for his subsequent impotency and the breakdown of his marriage.

There is little doubt that sudden stress can expose the symptoms of multiple sclerosis almost immediately. When, for instance, I was a doctor in Norfolk, one of our local district nurses was swimming off the coast when she found herself being swept out to sea. She battled back to the beach but, within 48 hours, had the first disabling evidence of multiple sclerosis. The judge in the chauffeur's case attributes the onset of the



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

condition to the stress brought on by the accident. Presumably two factors contributed to this stress: the acute anxiety suffered when the car was hit and pushed 40 yards and the post-traumatic stress this could induce, and the effects that spinal injuries could have on his future employment.

Reports do not make clear if the impotency was the result of spinal damage and therefore to the nerve supply of the genitalia: psychogenic; a manifestation of the stress; or

early symptom of the multiple sclerosis. Impotency is a common, but rarely mentioned, manifestation of multiple sclerosis in men, as is genital anaesthesia in women.

The judge, in giving substantial damages to a vulnerable patient whose symptoms have been triggered by their response to stress, may have encouraged many thousands of others to seek recompense in the courts for their infirmity. Stress may play a part in triggering symptoms in a large number of diseases in

which there is a genetic component in the causation.

The stress may be of many different types, including anxiety or injury. If the chauffeur had not succumbed to the trauma, both physical and psychological, of the accident, another disaster — illness, debt, divorce, death of a loved one, loss of a job or a change in the social background — might have triggered the symptoms.

Among the conditions other than MS in which there is a strong family history and in which it seems likely that a person is born with a tendency to develop the trouble which may be exposed by other factors, including stress, are diseases as diverse as psoriasis, diabetes, the autoimmune and inflammatory conditions which include ulcerative colitis, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, and

psychiatric problems including schizophrenia and some forms of depressive illness.

Are all these unlucky people, in whom one of life's unfortunate events exposes a genetic weakness, to receive more than £300,000 in the courts if a possibly causative incident can be blamed on

someone else? Will a student overreached by examinations who develops schizophrenia have a case against the university? Will, in fact, all those with an hereditary propensity to develop a disease be able to sue somebody for their faulty genes if the weakness is exposed?

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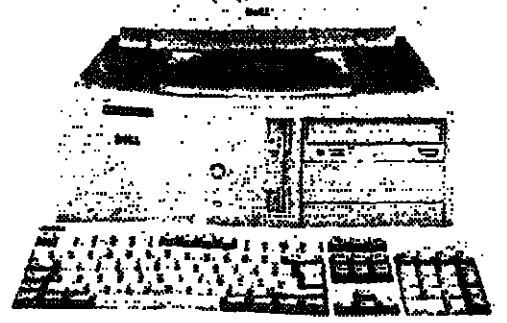
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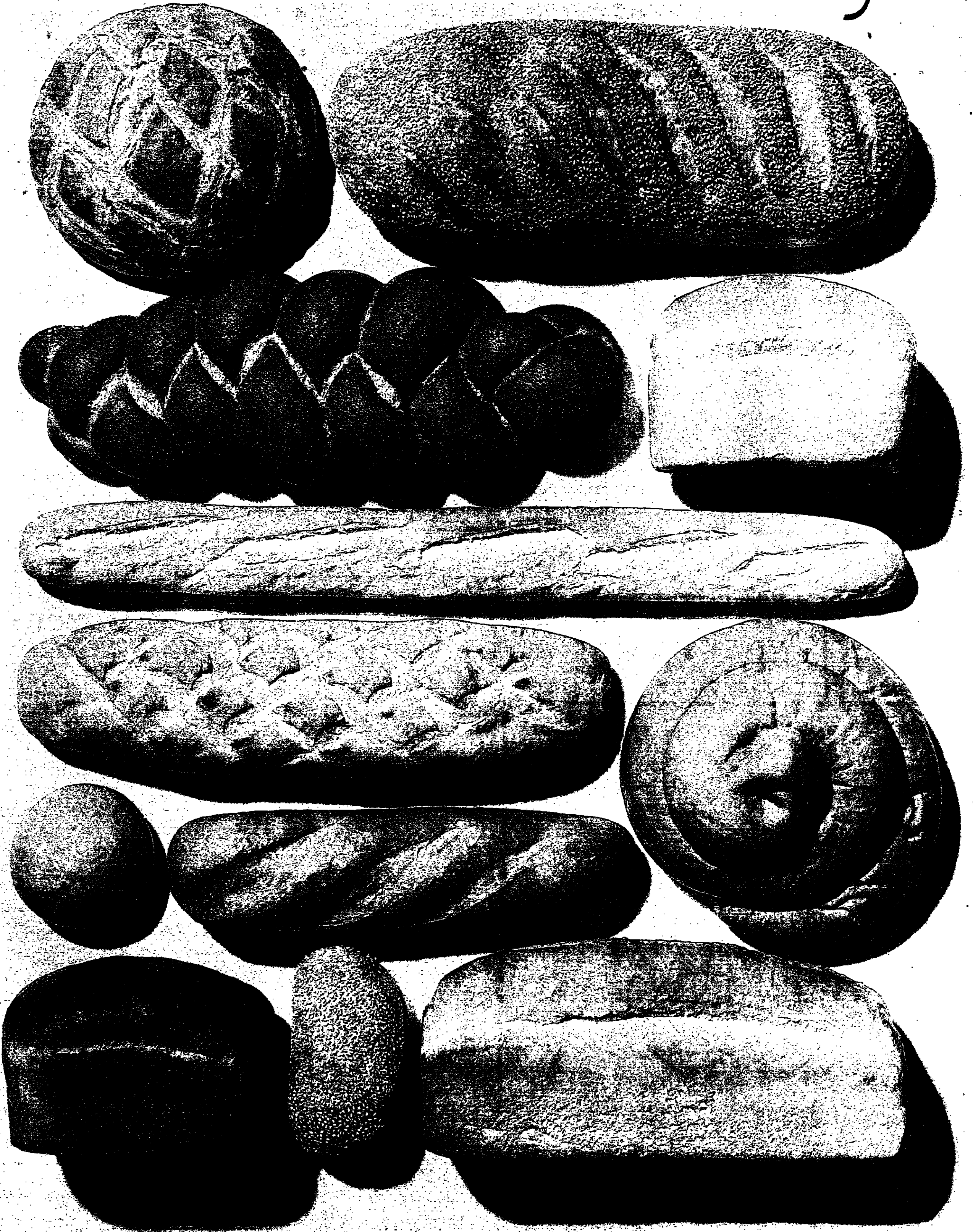
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'Offensive' war film disrupted by arson attack

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MORE than four hundred people fled an arson attack at a cinema that was showing the controversial film *Border* which depicts the war between India and Pakistan and is allegedly offensive towards Muslims.

The fire broke out in a bag of rubbish at the Belle-Vue cinema in Edgware, northwest London.

Less than a week ago 300 youths of Pakistani origin rioted in the Harehills area of Leeds, attacking a video shop they believed was hiring out *Border*.

Muslims have been offended by a scene in which the Koran is damaged, and by the film's alleged prejudice against Pakistan.

A London Fire Brigade spokesman said the fire was relatively small and was doused within ten minutes of firefighters being alerted. Some 14 emergency calls were received from flingers, many using mobile phones.

Harry Hallen, 52, a BT engineer, said: "There were lots of bangs on the screen and then suddenly there were flames and smoke billowing out from one side of the cinema."

Two men of Asian appearance, thought to be in their 20s, were seen acting suspiciously near the seat of the fire at the back of the auditorium shortly before the alarm was raised, a Metropolitan Police spokeswoman said.

Scotland Yard said it was investigating the theory that the blaze was started after a row between staff at the cinema and a group of youths who had been smoking in the no-smoking auditorium and had been asked to leave.

A spokesman for Eros International said that *Border* had been showing in cinemas across the country for two weekends and had attracted no other protests. He said the company was happy to continue to offer the film, which he insisted was not offensive to Muslims. "I am sure it was just some young kids who do not know what they are doing."



Willy McGlynn says that his family has been victimised by Limerigg residents. "If anything happens here they always blame the McGlynn," he said yesterday

'Village from hell' fights back

A community brought to its knees by a group of lawless families is uniting to face up to the threat, Shirley English writes

RESIDENTS who claim their tranquil lifestyle in a tiny Scottish village has been wrecked by three nuisance families are to hold a public meeting tomorrow in an effort to tackle the menace.

Limerigg, south of Falkirk, has been dubbed the "village from hell" by the local MP, Michael Connarty. He claims anti-social neighbours have wrecked the once-beautiful village, sited next to a forest and a loch.

Mr Connarty has raised the issue in the House of Commons. In a question to Tony Blair about witness protection, Mr Connarty spoke last week of "the tragedy of a beautiful village in my constituency turned into a village from hell

by several vicious families against whom no one has courage to go witness".

Mr Connarty said yesterday: "These problem neighbours steal things, damage cars and physically and verbally abuse people. They drink and fight in the street, even their children are abusive."

"The police know who they are, the housing authority knows who they are. Residents, particularly the elderly, are harassed regularly." Those who complain might get a brick through the window.

Mr Connarty is pressing for changes in the law to protect witnesses who testify against nuisance neighbours. He also wants councils to have greater



Limerigg: once drew daytrippers seeking rural calm

powers to evict problem tenants. But the three inter-related families blamed by residents for some of the problems — the McGlynn, Woods and Campbell — say it is they who are being victimised.

Yesterday, sitting on his front path with friends, sharing a few cans of Export and a bottle of Buckfast, Willy McGlynn, 40, hit back at the

allegations. "It's all lies," he said. "If anything happens here they always blame the McGlynn. They think we're scum, but we're not. They are trying to get rid of us, but the only way they will get us out of here is in a box, because we have never done anyone any harm."

Mr McGlynn, who was born and bred in Limerigg and admits he has been in trouble with the police, added: "This used to be a cracking wee village. There is not a person here that I have not helped at some time. Now they are picking on us and our children."

Many of the council cottages and flats, which were once eagerly sought by people attracted to the peace and quiet of country life, lie empty and boarded up with metal shutters. Out of the 84 homes in Limerigg, of which 58 are council-owned, 24 are empty

and falling into disrepair. In recent years Limerigg Primary School's roll has almost halved, leaving just 14 pupils, as residents have moved away. Around the houses occupied by 15 or so adults and children that make up the so-called problem families, all the properties are empty.

Only a handful of villagers are prepared to talk about the problems, but decline to give their names. One elderly woman said: "People are too frightened to speak out."

A man who has lived most of his life in the village said he had watched its decline over the years. He claimed the trouble started about 16 years ago, caused by a "bad" generation of a Limerigg family, and was exacerbated when the council allowed other anti-social families to move in.

Previously the village was a beautiful place and people had to wait for someone to die to get a house, he said. Daytrippers would travel for miles to picnic or fish at the loch. "Now the council wouldn't be able to give the houses away."

He claims people have broken into vacant properties and taken everything, from fireplaces to bathroom suites. "They are a bad lot, but around here nobody ever sees anything," he said.

At the public meeting tomorrow night, Falkirk council and Central Scotland Police will present a draft plan aimed at reviving the village.

The proposals include increased policing and security measures and refurbishing empty council homes, which will be guarded round-the-clock until occupied. Scottish Homes will be asked to develop new housing on vacant plots.

While welcoming the plans, Mr Connarty believes that little will change unless the source of the problem is tackled. Government proposals to introduce community safety orders to restrain criminal behaviour, in the new Crime and Disorder Bill, do not go far enough, he says. The orders rely on victims giving evidence in court, and most of them are too scared to testify.

David Speirs, the local councillor, said yesterday that the council was doing all it could to help the decent people in the village. Central Scotland Police accepted that confidence in the police's ability to act had been dented.

Jean Woods, 42, née McGlynn, claims that Limerigg is like any other village and people have disagreements, but her family is not responsible for the vandalism or theft.

One of the Campbells, who refused to give her full name, said the allegations were lies and came down to religion. "We're Catholics and we have to fight the council to get anything done in our houses. It's a disgrace," she said.

Rampton patient claims he was held too long

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A MAN convicted of assault was kept in a psychiatric hospital for more than three years after he was declared free from mental illness, the European Court of Human Rights was told yesterday.

A supervised hostel place could not be found for Stanley Johnson and doctors were concerned he might "explode" under the pressures of daily life. But lawyers told the judges in Strasbourg that since his release in January 1993 he had had no mental relapse and no convictions.

The court is being asked to find Britain in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights, which safeguards the right to "liberty and security" and states: "Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful."

Mr Johnson, from Leicester, was sent to Rampton psychiatric hospital in Nottinghamshire in 1984 for punching a woman in the street. He was convicted of actual bodily harm, his fifth assault conviction. He was found to be suffering from schizophrenia superimposed on a psychopathic personality.

In June 1989, the Mental Health Review Tribunal accepted he was free from the symptoms of mental illness but ruled he should not be discharged until suitable accommodation could be found.

The European Commission of Human Rights has already delivered a preliminary opinion, by 15-1, that Mr Johnson's human rights were breached. The court will deliver its verdict later this year.

Hopes for 'male pill'

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

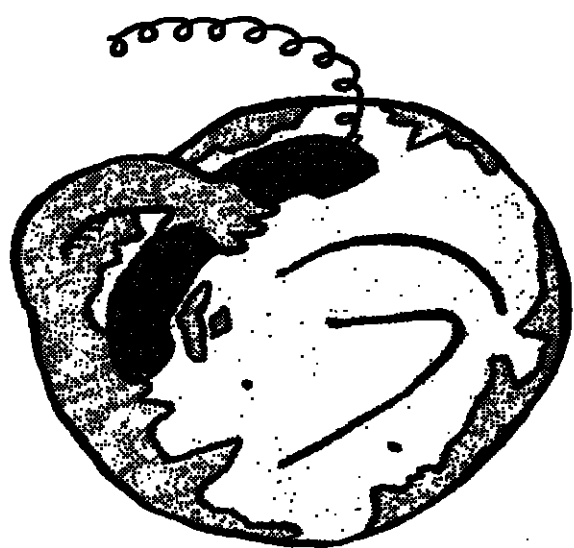
SUCCESSFUL trials in Edinburgh could lead to a practical "male pill" within five years, researchers said yesterday.

Thirty men have taken the pills in various doses and shown that they seem to work and to be safe. More trials are needed, with support from a large drug company, if the male pill is to become a practical proposition.

The results will be presented tomorrow at the annual meeting in the city of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology.

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Charlie Kray, 70, gets 12 years for cocaine deal

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHARLIE KRAY was sentenced to 12 years in prison yesterday for masterminding a £30 million cocaine deal.

Kray, the elder brother of the gangster twins, will celebrate his 71st birthday next week in a high-security cell. Prison Service sources say he will go to Belmarsh Prison in Woolwich, southeast London, to be assessed. A decision will then be taken on where he will be sent long-term. One factor is whether he is considered an escape risk.

Kray will have to serve at least half of his sentence. He has already served almost a year on remand and this will be deducted, meaning he is unlikely to be released until he is at least 76.

Friends and family accept that he may die in jail. Yesterday they said they were planning an appeal and a medical report was being prepared. Kray's last prison term ended in 1975, when he was freed after serving part of a ten-year sentence for helping to dispose of the body of a Kray gang victim.

Last week he was found guilty at Woolwich Crown Court of offering to supply cocaine to undercover officers and also of supplying two kilograms of cocaine worth £63,500. Yesterday in court he continued to protest his innocence. He denied involvement in drugs and told the jury that they had made a mistake.

He told Judge Carroll: "All my life I have advised people, particularly the young, never to be involved in drugs." He



Kray: continued to deny involvement with drugs

said the stories he told the undercover officers about drug deals he had been involved in and the offers of drugs were all lies. They were a ruse to get money.

Watched by supporters packed in the public gallery, including his girlfriend, Judy Stanley, he said: "I swear on my son's grave I have never handled drugs in my life. Juries have got it wrong for me before and this jury got it wrong."

But Judge Carroll told Kray the evidence has been overwhelming. "You showed yourself to be ready, willing and able to lend yourself to any criminal enterprise which became known to you."

The defence claimed there had been entrapment, but the judge said: "There was never a real question of entrapment by those officers but, when caught, you cried foul. I am pleased to say this jury saw through that hollow cry. Infiltration by undercover officers is an important tool in society's fight against crime."

Kray's protestations of innocence were hypocrisy, he said.

The judge also sentenced Ronald Field, 50, unemployed, of Raynes Park, southwest London, to nine years for his part in the offering and supplying the drugs. Robert Gould, 39, from Wimbledon, south London, was given five years for supplying drugs.

Outside the court, Mrs Stanley, escorted by a burly man with short hair, said: "I expected them to throw the book at him. He will be strong. He is very strong. He will always have me. I will stand by him."

The surviving Kray twin, Reggie, was jailed for life for murder with a recommendation that he should serve 30 years, which will be completed next spring.

Maureen Flanagan, a friend of the Krays, said the result would "devastate Reggie". There had been plans for the brothers to retire to the country once Reggie was free.



Judy Stanley, Kray's girlfriend, yesterday. She promised to stand by him

Top darts players go to court over world boycott

SOME of the world's top darts players lined up for a High Court battle yesterday against the sporting body they claim has made them pariahs, unable to earn a living from the game. Fourteen leading players, including Eric Bristow, Jocky Wilson, John Lowe and Cliff Lazarenko, are suing the British Darts Organisation, alleging that it has an unfair monopoly on organising events.

When the players broke away from the BDO in 1993 to form the World Darts Council, they were banned from all BDO competitions and functions. Andrew Hochhauser, QC, representing the players, told Mr Justice Potts that professional darts players' livelihoods depended on them being able to take part in competitions. "These competitions are said to be open to all, but they alone have been denied access since 1993."

When the players broke away, the BDO passed resolutions suspending them from participating or attending any of its events, Mr Hochhauser said. "We challenge the monopoly power of the BDO. The



Bristow: he is claiming for loss of earnings

boycott has hampered their ability to earn a living by their talents."

It was unlawful and imposed unfairly, in breach of the BDO's own rules and of natural justice, he added. It also imposed an unlawful restraint on trade, which was against the European Union's free competition laws.

The darts players want the boycott overruled and are claiming compensation for loss of earnings since its introduction. The trial continues today.

School heroine is offered new job

BY RICHARD DUCE

LISA POTTS, the nursery nurse hailed as a national heroine for protecting children from a machete-wielding attacker, is to be offered a job at another school after constant flashbacks forced her to give up her post.

Miss Potts, 22, said the psychological trauma which resulted from the attack at St Luke's primary school in Wolverhampton last summer has proved so great that she was decided to resign before the start of the September term.

She has started to suffer vivid daytime flashbacks of the incident. Wolverhampton education authority said that, even if she stopped being one of its employees, she would be

given psychiatric care for as long as was needed.

Miss Potts, who was awarded the George Medal for bravery in the Queen's birthday honours, will be encouraged to take a post at another school. She has been on sick leave for the past four weeks.

Wolverhampton council said that it "recognised demands being made of Lisa by the intense media and public interest, which have made it difficult for her to continue in her post". The council said alternative posts were being discussed "to offer her some breathing space and she is considering these. The council will do all it can to assist her in shaping her future."

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Hague brings Coe back in key Westminster job

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND JILL SHERMAN

SEBASTIAN COE, the double Olympic gold medalist who lost his seat as a Tory MP at the general election, has made a rapid return to Westminster with a key post in William Hague's office.

Mr Coe, who lost Falmouth and Camborne to the Labour Party, has been appointed deputy chief of staff. The appointment ends weeks of speculation that Mr Coe will take a high-ranking post in sports administration. It will put him in a strong position to secure the chance to fight a winnable by-election.

Mr Coe was one of a clutch of appointments announced yesterday. Several key figures in Mr Hague's leadership campaign have been rewarded with political roles. Alan Duncan, who masterminded the campaign, has been given an important backroom role similar to the one created by Peter Mandelson as Labour's communications specialist during the last Parliament.

Mr Duncan has been appointed Parliamentary Political Secretary. He will act as a bridge between the Leader of

the Opposition's office and Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, at Conservative Central Office.

Mr Hague, who has promised to revolutionise the local party network and Central Office, is planning to transform the party's media operation. Mr Duncan will have a key role in liaising with the media and ensuring that policy announcements by the party are co-ordinated.

The position, the first of its kind in the Tory party, will



Duncan: important backroom role

wield considerable influence. "He will have a foot in every camp," a Tory source said last night.

Charles Hendry, another member of the Hague campaign team, is brought back from the wilderness, having lost his High Peak seat. He will be the chief of staff.

Mr Coe, Mr Duncan and Mr Hendry are all fiercely loyal to Mr Hague. They will help to dispel any feelings of insecurity he might have as such a young party leader.

Geroge Osborne, 26, is Mr Hague's political secretary and has been tipped for great things in the party. He worked for Douglas Hogg, the accident-prone Agriculture Minister in the last Tory Government. During the election he briefed John Major each morning before the daily press conferences.

Christopher Chope, the former Minister of Transport who lost his seat in 1992, is expected to get a job in Mr Hague's Shadow Cabinet, taking the environment portfolio.

David Willets, the MP for Havant who resigned from his

job of Paymaster General over his handling of the cash-for-questions affair, is expected to become a Shadow minister.

Meanwhile the think-tank that played a strong supporting role in John Redwood's leadership campaign countered reports that it was about to be wound up. The future of the Conservative 2000 Foundation looks shaky after Mr Redwood's decision to sever links with it. There has been speculation that Mr Hague demanded this from Mr Redwood as the price for a Shadow Cabinet job, to prevent its use as an alternative power base to Central Office.

But, yesterday Hywel Williams, the foundation's director, said: "Recent press speculation concerning the future role of the Conservative 2000 Foundation has been both inaccurate and damaging to the cause of Conservative Party unity."

The foundation has been happy to assist Mr Redwood with his work in recent years but he holds no office in the foundation, which is an independent body.



Coe: job will put him in a strong position to fight a winnable by-election and restart his Commons career

Schools to gain in new look at building deals

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

SCHOOL building projects will be given priority under a revamped government scheme to attract private money into the public sector.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, announced yesterday that the Private Finance Initiative — launched by the Conservatives — will be streamlined so that potentially suitable schemes are assessed at an earlier stage.

A new Treasury task force will help government departments and agencies to weigh up the commercial viability of projects before private contractors become involved. The task force will replace the Private Finance Panel, which has been disbanded.

Critics say that both the Government and the private sector have incurred huge and often unnecessary tendering costs under the PFI.

Mr Robinson said: "Until now, the Treasury has been involved too late in the process, leading to frustration and increased costs."

Asked about the involvement of schools in the PFI, he said: "We have identified it as a priority and that has been welcomed by the Department for Education and Employment." He denied that the relaunch was "make or break" for the PFI under Labour, but added: "I am determined to make this work and my reputation will depend in no small part on making it work."

Mr Robinson said he had accepted in full the recommendations made by Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Assurance plc, who was asked to conduct a review of the PFI within days of Labour's general election victory. Mr Bates called for the structure of the scheme to be simplified and for clarification of the responsibilities of those involved.

Mr Robinson said he had

spoken to all but one of the members of the Private Finance Panel yesterday morning, to inform them that it had been disbanded. "Every single member of the panel, apart from the one I have not spoken to, agreed that was the right decision and there's no problem there," he said.

David Steeds, chief executive of the panel, welcomed the Government's move but added: "Our period of stewardship has seen an impressive list of projects signed in all sectors for which we are responsible."

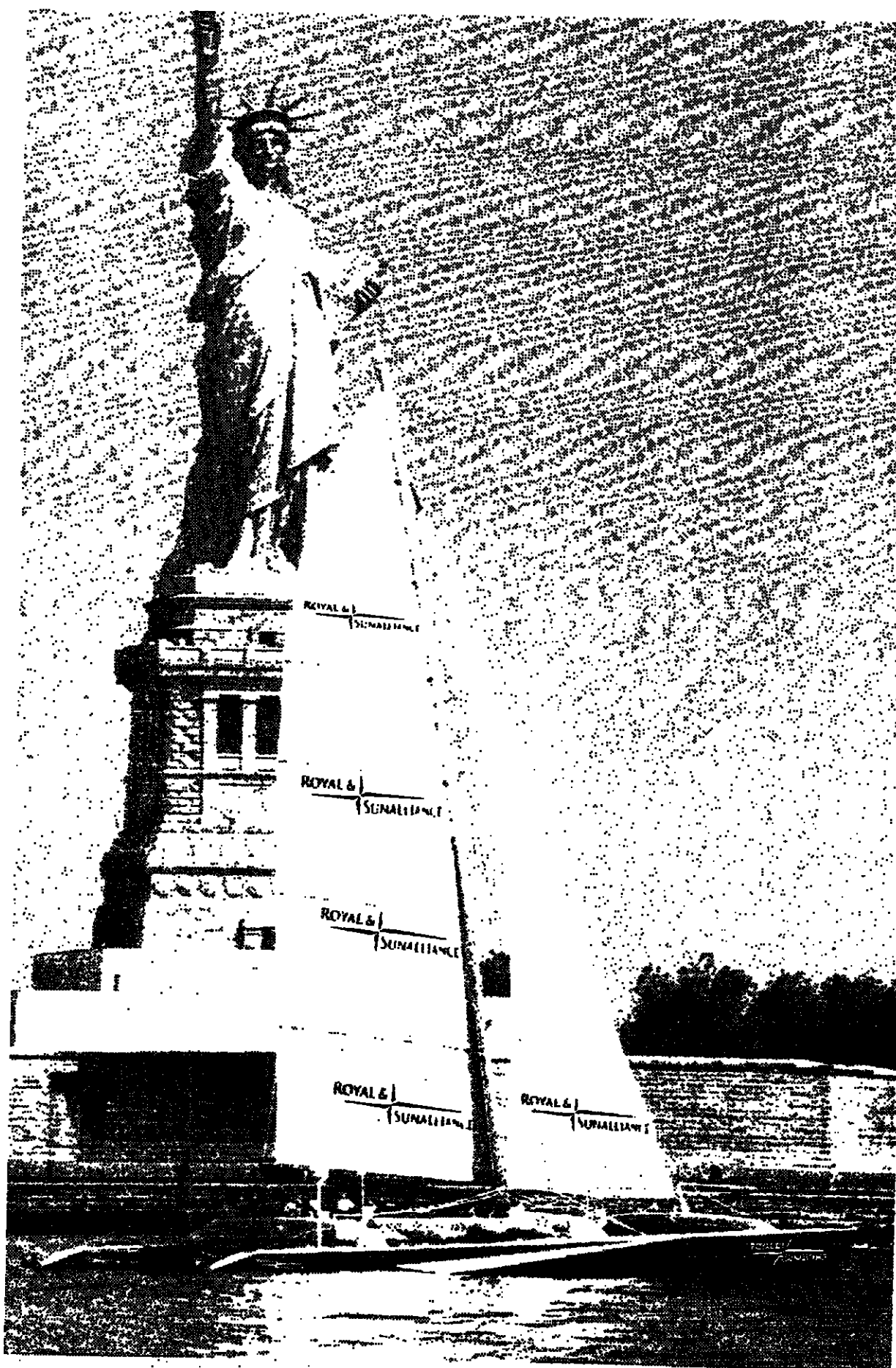
Under the new regime, contractors' bidding costs could be refunded by the Government if a project for which they have tendered is scrapped purely on policy grounds. The idea was recommended by Mr Bates in his report.

Mr Robinson said: "There has been an unacceptable degree of silliness on both sides and if we are to reduce the bidding costs, which have run into millions, we have to be serious about it before we start. But if there's a government decision to pull the plug, then it [refunding costs] should be considered. I think it loads the dice in favour of a serious intent."



Robinson: reputation depends on success

FROM THE BIG APPLE TO A BITE AT THE TRANSATLANTIC RECORD.



The catamaran 'Royal & SunAlliance' has just set off from the East coast of New York with the aim of bringing the Transatlantic record back to Great Britain.

Tracy Edwards MBE, leading an all-female crew, plans to race across at an average 19 knots per hour to better the current fastest time of 6 days 13 hours and 3 minutes.

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ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

Labour is reminded of pledge to the old

BY POLLY NEWTON

AGE CONCERN will today accuse the Government of failing to fulfil its pre-election commitments to the elderly. The charity's director general, Sally Greengross, will address a meeting of MPs at the Commons to mark the launch of a report, *Age Matters*, which calls on ministers to make good the pledges in Labour's manifesto.

A spokesman for Age Concern said: "There were an awful lot of commitments that the Labour Party made in opposition and we have yet to see some action. We are beginning to ask questions like how long do you give them the benefit of the doubt?"

Pensions, the funding of long-term care and age discrimination by employers are among the issues on which Age Concern wants action.

Ms Greengross said: "In his election campaign, Tony Blair pledged never to forget the contribution made by pensioners to this country's history and prosperity. Mr Blair must now make good this promise, and offer older people the opportunities, support and care they need to ensure that retirement is a time to be enjoyed, not endured."

The report says that the present review of NHS funding has caused widespread concern among older people, who would be most affected by any charges for GP visits, stays in hospital or cutbacks to prescription charge exemptions.

Tradition ends with colony's last appeal

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE 150-year tradition of legal appeals from Hong Kong being heard by senior judges of the Privy Council is to end this week.

A special council meeting to be heard by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York — the Queen will be in Canada — will take place at Buckingham Palace on Thursday to seal the final rulings.

The last case to be heard will be about squatters' rights. Sze To Chun Keung, 73, built a shack in the New Territories more than 40 years ago. He took out a Crown permit for 21 Hong Kong dollars a year (about £2), and since then has upgraded the property. But the Crown says he has no right to the land and the real owner is now claiming it back.

Kim Levison, QC, representing the property developer who owns the land, said: "It will be an historic appeal — another chunk of Commonwealth jurisdiction is going outside our courts."

Leolin Price, QC, has taken part in many Privy Council cases. He said: "What has always been important in Hong Kong is that the law should be to the highest international standard and totally reliable. An appeal to the Privy Council was a way of ensuring an international input into the judicial arrangements in Hong Kong."

Extra troops, page 17

Minister signals end for car bull bars

BULL bars on cars and lorries could be banned by the Government without agreement from Brussels if the devices are not outlawed across Europe, Baroness Hayman, the junior Transport Minister, said last night (Polly Newton writes).

She told the House of Lords that there had been an estimated 84 serious injuries and two or three deaths in Britain as a result of the heavy metal bars being fitted to the front of vehicles.

Lady Hayman said that progress within the European Union had been slow, with some states opposing the Commission's proposals. "We still believe that the best mechanism is through extend-

ing and amending the directive. But if that's not possible, we will consider what national action could be effective if progress is not forthcoming."

Lady Hayman, describing bull bars as an "unnecessary and aggressive addition" to cars, said that they greatly increased the risk of severe injury in accidents where pedestrians were struck.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: health questions; Plant Varieties Bill, all stages; Solicitor General's Salary Order; Backbench debate on Plymouth Ocean In the Lords: Education (Schools) Bill, second reading; Solicitor General's Salary Order; Channel Tunnel Rail Link (Straitford Station and Subsidary Works) Order; debate on advisory committees on organophosphate products.

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سازمان اطلاعات

Artist and public clash over value of 130ft brick train

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A LOCOMOTIVE made from 185,000 bricks, and compared by its creator to the Pyramids, was unveiled in Darlington yesterday. The 130ft-long *Train*, by David Mach, 42, was put together by a team of 100 that included engineers, architects and bricklayers.

The monument, loosely based on the prewar, record-breaking *Millard*, contains enough bricks for several terraced houses and reflects Darlington's position in railway history. Mr Mach made his name in the early 1980s with *Polaris*, a submarine made entirely from tyres.

The work, which National Lottery funds contributed £570,000 of the total cost of £760,000, was unveiled by Lord Palumbo, former chairman of the Arts Council, who said: "If anybody cavils or criticises public art, they should come here. It is one of those works which raises the spirits and lifts expectations."

He described it as a superb work of art and a great addition to the landscape and environment.

Jeff Morrow, 27, of Coxhoe, Co Durham, one of the bricklayers who produced the 1,500-ton train, said: "I wish I could do more of this sort of thing. I will always feel a sense of pride whenever I go past here and see the train."

The sculpture, sited next to a Morrison's supermarket, which commissioned it, was criticised by local people, who believed the money would have been better spent on a more "sensible" project.

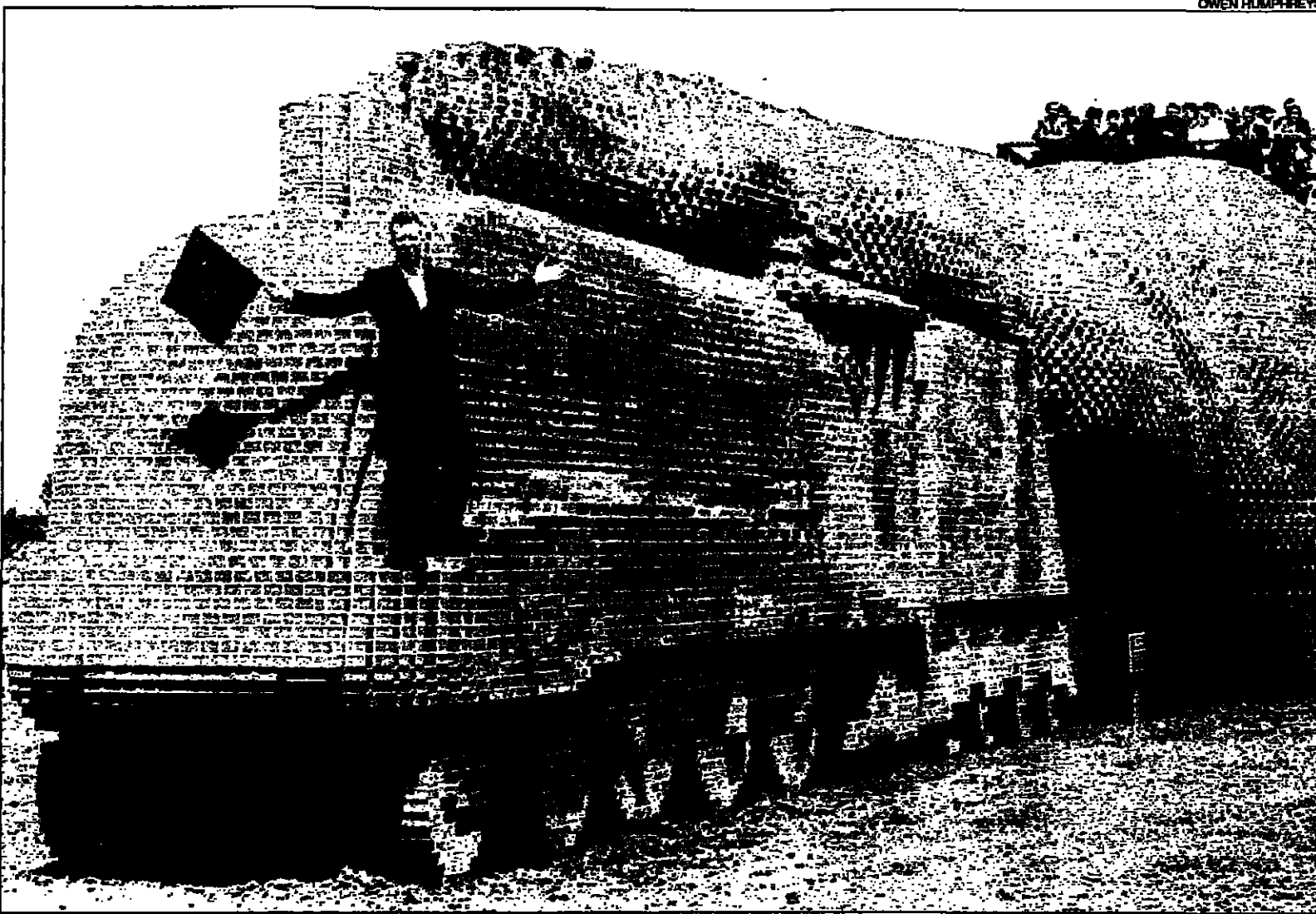
Peter Jones, a former Darlington councillor, said: "£760,000 should not have been spent on it. There are thousands of us who feel that. No options were given. We all consider that the people were treated with contempt." He added: "Darlington council has gone ahead with the first rubbish put before it ... We

should have had a real train or some form of museum where people could learn about the railway history of this area."

Dorothy Long, chairman of the council's leisure committee, said: "I'm delighted the brick train has been built in Darlington and that it has already generated local, regional and international interest."

Mach, whose next commission includes a portrait in coathangers of Nelson Mandela for a refugee centre in Edinburgh, said: "This is doing Darlington proud. It is there to be part of the landscape and in years to come people will come to see the train in the same way as they visit the Pyramids and Trafalgar Square. It is a real investment in the area and its people. Something substantial has been created which has involved a lot of people."

"It has brought back traditional skills and crafts and embraced traditional values."



David Mach, creator of *Train*, at the unveiling in Darlington yesterday. He said future generations would compare it with the Pyramids

'History at risk' from millennium exhibition

BY NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

VALUABLE evidence for Britain's industrial history is being destroyed in the rush to prepare the Millennium Festival site at Greenwich, an archaeologist has claimed.

Remains next to the Thames dating from Tudor to Victorian times, including jetties and the sites of a tide-mill and a dry dock, may be destroyed without investigation, according to Mary Miles, of the Association for Industrial Archaeology.

"Greenwich was a major industrial area from Tudor times, involving armaments and maritime trades," she said. "A walk along the river-side reveals site after site of great interest."

Part of the area is protected, but the site of an 1803 tide mill, later converted to a pioneering chemical works, will probably be demolished without study. The site of an 1870 dry dock "has been cleared under great secrecy, and we have not been able to discover its fate", Ms Miles says in the association's newsletter.

A gasholder, once the world's largest, should be recognised as "a monument to technological achievement".

Courtesy car drivers not liable for fines

BY A STAFF REPORTER

DRIVERS are not liable for parking tickets picked up while they are using courtesy cars, a test ruling has said. Five garages lost an appeal against a ruling that they should have to pay for tickets collected by customers whose cars they were repairing.

The garages had hoped to close a loophole in the Road Traffic Act that meant they could not transfer liability for fines to the driver of the car. But the chief adjudicator of the Parking Committee for London rejected their case, saying that, as the keepers of the vehicles, responsibility rested with them.

However, at the same session in Haymarket, central London, a ruling involving Avis and Hertz means that car-hire companies can force customers to pay their parking fines.

Robin McCulachy, of the British Vehicle and Leasing Association, said: "Garages now have a problem on their hands. If a person borrowing a vehicle incurs a parking fine, the garage is liable for it. Essentially this means any customer who gets a parking ticket can just turn round and say, 'Tough, I'm not paying the fine.'"

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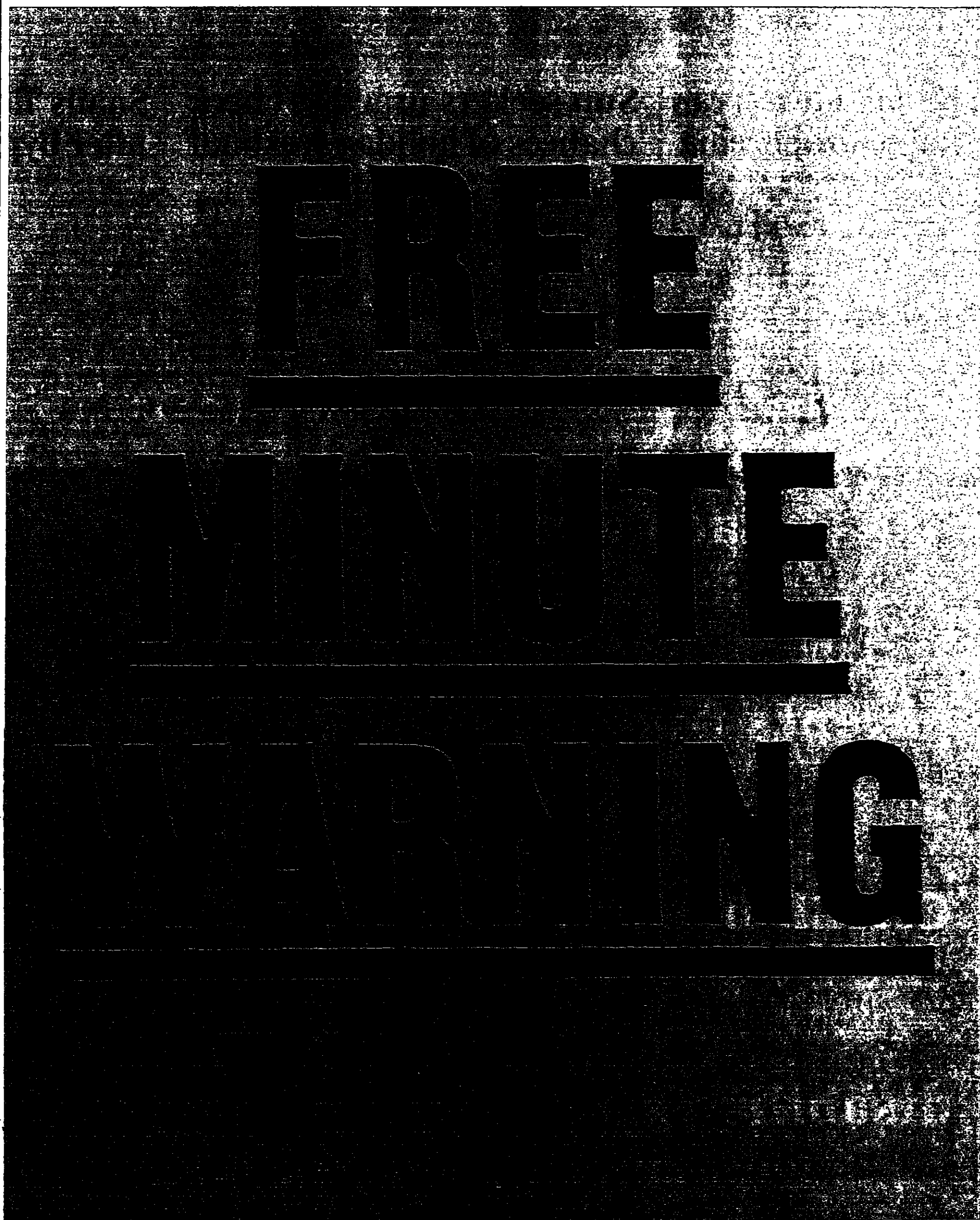
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PoWs hopeful of victory in claim against Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT
IN TOKYO
AND MICHAEL EVANS

BRITISH veterans maltreated in Japanese prisoner of war camps were claiming a breakthrough yesterday in their fight for compensation from the Tokyo Government.

A leading international expert on human rights appeared in court in Tokyo to give his full backing to the 10,000 British military and civilian PoWs who are each claiming £14,000 for the suffering they endured during the Second World War.

Japan has always maintained that it has no case to answer, as the survivors among the 50,000 interned prisoners received compensation of £75 under the terms of the 1957 San Francisco Treaty. Fritz Kalshoven, Professor of International Law at Leiden University in Holland, and the leading academic on the treatment of PoWs, told the district court hearing the claims for compensation that, under the 1947 Hague Convention, individuals were able to make claims for abuse of human rights.

Martin Day, the PoWs' lawyer, said: "There is no question that today has been the climax of the case, the defining moment. When the Japanese Government began

"I surrendered once to the Japanese. I didn't like it. I will not surrender again"

their cross-examination, their enthusiasm disappeared. I came away with the strong feeling that, if the judiciary has even half an eye for seeing real justice being done, then I think we will win."

Professor Kalshoven told the court that a government-to-government agreement such as the San Francisco Treaty "cannot have the effect of depriving individual victims of the right to press their own claims for damage suf-



Emperor Akihito: faces a cool reception in London

fered at the hands of the enemy". In the court case, which began in January 1995, seven former Allied PoWs and civilian internees, including three Britons, are seeking compensation.

Speaking after yesterday's hearing, Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, said: "I surrendered once to the Japanese. I didn't like it. I will not surrender again."

Apart from the £14,000, the former PoWs are also demanding an unequivocal apology from Japan. Mr Titherington, 75, said: "There is no hatred. There is no question of revenge. It is simply a matter of justice."

Mr Titherington accused the Japanese Government of "sitting back and waiting for a natural solution to the problem", adding: "The natural solution being the death of people like me. That is highly immoral."

More than 12,000 Britons died from disease and starvation in Japanese camps or

work gangs. Survivors have described in court the horrific treatment they suffered.

Mr Titherington told Japanese journalists at a press conference: "Because of the procrastination of your Government you, the ordinary Japanese, are invariably referred to, certainly in Britain, with derogatory names, usually 'the bloody Japanese'. You are held responsible for something you didn't do."

The Labour Government has already taken up the PoWs' case with Japan, although its ability to exert pressure for a settlement is restricted by the San Francisco Treaty. The PoWs point out that, in December, MPs from all parties used a Commons debate to urge Japan to make amends for its brutal treatment of British prisoners.

Mr Titherington and other PoWs said yesterday that Emperor Akihito could expect an embarrassingly cool reception in London next year if Tokyo refused to make amends by offering money and an apology. The Imperial Palace is known to be concerned that the Emperor's visit may be overshadowed by the calls for compensation and an apology.

Mr Day said: "If the issue has not been resolved by the time he comes, I'll be surprised if the PoWs and internees do not make their feelings



Keith Martin, left, and Arthur Titherington laying a poppy wreath in Hodogaya

felt." He added: "Time is running out. When I took up this case in 1992 there were 14,000 PoWs and civilian internees. Now there are only 10,000 in the two groups."

Keith Martin, 69, one of the plaintiffs who heads the Association of Civilian Internees of the Japanese, said: "The Emperor's visit provides some sort of incentive to do something about it."

At the next court hearing, scheduled for September, Mr Day expects the judges to give a ruling, but he says that the case will drag on if the Japanese Government decides to counter with its own expert witness.

NEWS IN BRIEF

School head suspended after claims of assault

The head of a boarding school for boys with emotional problems has been suspended after several pupils made allegations of physical assault. Roger West and two other staff at Oakwood School in Stowmarket, Suffolk, are being investigated by police and social services. Parents of the school's 50 boys, aged between seven and 16, have been told of the action by letter. Suffolk County Council said: "The suspensions are not disciplinary action, but have been made pending the outcome of the investigation."

Late delivery

The Post Office is to keep one of its counters open until midnight six days a week. The Post Office inside Tesco's superstore at Pitsea, Essex, will also open from 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Other Post Offices may follow suit.

Saudi trial delay

The trial in Saudi Arabia of two British nurses accused of murdering Yvonne Gilford, an Australian colleague, was adjourned in July 7 to allow lawyers to show that her brother, Frank, was the family's legal representative.

Library arsonists

Three youths aged 15 and 16 who burnt down a public library in Gushborough, Tees-side, for a dare while drunk were sentenced to be detained for up to three years and fined £1.25 million to rebuild.

Ulster hat-trick

Northern Ireland emerged on top in an all-Ireland best-kept town competition. Hillsborough, in Co Down, won the town and small town titles, and Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, took the award for the best large town.

Brush with law

Police called to a break-in at a B & Q store in Darlington, Co Durham, used an aircraft with a heat detector to track down the burglar. When they caught him hiding in shrubbery they found he had stolen only a £1.75 paint brush.

Five-minute test can find schizophrenia

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCHIZOPHRENIA can be diagnosed by a simple five-minute skin test. The test involves pricking small quantities of zinc (vitamin B6) on the inner forearm and noting any flushing of the skin five minutes later.

The Highland Psychiatric Research Group, based at Craig Dunne Hospital, Inverness, has shown that schizophrenia does not respond, producing no perceptible flush. Apart from helping in diagnosis, the test shows that there are biochemical differences between schizophrenics and healthy volunteers which could have important implications for treatment. The results are to be published in *Schizophrenia Research*.

The test works, the group believes, because of abnormalities in schizophrenics' cell membranes. These outer cell coatings consist of fatty acids, including arachidonic acid.

Earlier work has shown low levels of this acid in the cells of schizophrenics, believed to be due to increased activity of an enzyme that breaks it down. The flushing comes from a reaction between zinc and arachidonic acid in the skin cells. The absence of such a response indicates a deficiency of the acid.

Sun seekers urged to check chances of holiday washout

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS are flying out to face two weeks of floods or storms because travel agents are failing to advise them about local weather conditions, researchers claim.

A team for the BBCI show *Summer Holiday* asked 50 High Street travel agents for details of a long-haul beach holiday to be taken in August. More than half made no mention of the risk of monsoons or hurricanes and some gave blatantly wrong advice.

When asked about the Caribbean, only one agent said there was a chance of hurricanes in July and August. A branch of Thomas Cook in

Darlington claimed that there was no rain in the Maldives during August - the middle of the monsoon season.

The programme was prompted by complaints from a couple who said that their holiday in Jamaica had been ruined by torrential rain throughout a nine-day stay in August.

Keith Betton, of the Association of British Travel Agents, said that tourists should check with their travel agents.

"But they are not meteorologists. It is a shared responsibility between the travel agent and the traveller to take climate conditions into ac-

count when booking a holiday."

For the record, the monsoon season in Goa is from June to September, when there can be up to 24in in one month. In the Seychelles the rains come from November to February, with perhaps 12in around Christmas. Phuket in Thailand can expect up to 12in a month in the monsoon season from May to October.

Throughout the Caribbean the hurricane season runs from June to November. Hurricanes may hit parts of the American South from March to May, with the worst storms in July and August.

Snails 'flourishing' after bypass move

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE snails that briefly threatened work on the Newbury bypass are thriving in their new home, according to the agency that moved them.

Environmentalists went to court to try to get the £101 million project abandoned on the ground that the work broke European conservation laws. But the Highways Agency won approval to continue work on the nine-mile route after convincing the courts that the colony of minuscule Desmoulin's whorl snails could be moved further up the River Kennet valley.

Yesterday, months after the colony was moved to its larger

home, the agency announced that checks had found that the snails were thriving. "The creation of a new habitat for them shows encouraging results one year on."

Steve Rowsell, the Highways Agency's project director for the Newbury bypass, said: "Continuous monitoring has revealed that we can further enhance the Kennet area by regulating the water flow. This additional work is in hand. We are also going to start work on creating more habitat, measuring about 900 square metres, in the Baginbun Valley in the near future."

Each week, 200

Learning disabilities are often not recognised in children until they are two or three years old, and in some cases proper diagnosis can take a lot longer. Parents who know something is wrong with their child but

parents find out their

don't know how to find out what it is, need a lot of support and advice, not only coming to terms with the child's problems but in doing something about them. To help give these families the help they

CHILD has a learning

disability. And they're desperately need. Mencap have launched a Family Adviser service, which provides caring professionals, supported by trained volunteers, who can act as advisers every step of the way. Pilot schemes are now up

and running for this much needed service, but more funds and support are required to make it a national network. You can help by ringing 0645 777 779 and making a donation to Mencap's Blue Sky Appeal.

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APPLIED

German firms to check records for Holocaust links

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

SOME of Germany's most famous companies, fearing hefty lawsuits and compensation claims, are opening their archives to allow independent historians to assess the extent of their collaboration with the Nazis.

Degussa, the precious metals company accused of melting down the gold teeth of Jewish victims, has commissioned the Cologne Institute for Economic and Social History to trawl through the often detailed records of wartime gold deliveries.

As the speeches at the first publicly held congress of the Society for Company History made plain, Degussa is not alone in having to confront its past. Daimler and Volkswagen have commissioned company histories, by established scholars, in which the role of slave labour is thoroughly examined. Deutsche Bank's profits from sales of Jewish assets have also been checked by independent historians. The Allianz insurance

company has just chosen Gerald Feldman, the American historian, to look at its wartime record — it insured SS buildings at Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald.

A new history of the German railway system, prepared by Klaus Hildebrand, the Bonn historian, will appear later this year and will buttress the evidence of other company historians: that the scope of the Holocaust was known to many more Germans than has previously been acknowledged. The transport of the millions of Jews to concentration camps in the East required the active participation of many thousands of railway employees.

Dr Hildebrand told the congress that German railwaymen were imbued with a civil service mentality — correctness, personal honesty and a sense of order. These so-called "secondary virtues" coupled with a belief in the propaganda slogan "Keep the Wheels Rolling for Victory",

helped to blind the railwaymen to the truth and ensured that they contributed to a "seamless participation in the genocide of the Jews". Other members of German concerns clearly also knew about the Holocaust. Allianz fire and safety inspectors had to examine regularly the insured buildings in the concentration camps and report back to their bosses.

The new candour partly reflects a generational change in German management. In the 1960s and 1970s, when the first rose-scented company histories were prepared, senior managers often still had connections with, or direct memories of, the war. But it is the international pressure — the fear of lawsuits and embarrassing disclosure in key foreign markets such as the United States and Britain — that is driving the new passion for the truth.

Holocaust survivors in the United States have lodged a multimillion-dollar suit against Allianz and other German insurers, alleging that they were cheated out of their assets.

German insurance companies largely controlled the life insurance market of Central and Eastern Europe before and during the war yet did not pay out. Herbert Hansmeyer, the Allianz director, says the company lost its capital base after the war but he no longer rules out setting up a compensation fund for Holocaust victims. "First we have to clear up the facts about our role in the Third Reich."

Former slave labourers from eastern Europe have also been setting up their claims for pensions from Volkswagen, Daimler and other companies. The German car manufacturer's readiness to come clean in its new company histories has earned it some applause in Germany. But there is still a fear that it will lose market share, especially in America.

Postwar powers 'know secret of looted assets'

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

JEWISH officials have accused the postwar powers and other European countries of helping to conceal the fate of hundreds of millions of pounds stolen by leading Nazi officials from Holocaust victims.

Extending the search for missing Holocaust funds, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre disclosed yesterday the names of 334 Nazis who may have transferred assets to Switzerland and other countries.

Many former Nazis were employed by opposing sides during the Cold War and the Wiesenthal Centre said the big powers, including Britain, deliberately avoided public investigations into their past.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, international director of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, said Washington was still keeping documents secret despite repeated appeals under the Freedom of Information Act. "These accounts represent the key to the entire history of what happened to the money that the Nazis plundered," he said.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, of the centre, said the search represented the unwritten side of a recent US government report on Nazi dealings. He also questioned the role played by the Tripartite Gold Commission, set up by the Allies after the war to redistribute looted Nazi gold.

Novelist's old haunt reborn as brothel

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN FREETOWN

FIFTY years ago the talk on the hotel balconies was of spies, invasions and subterfuge. Generals, royalty and diplomats rubbed shoulders with diamond miners and adventurers. Now the only business discussed is the \$2.50 (£1.63) price of a room for a few hours — bargains struck between Freetown prostitutes and their clients.

Broken shutters creak in the wind while rain cascades through the burnt-out wreck of the neighbouring National Treasury building, a victim of the violence in Sierra Leone's month-old coup.

The City Hotel was once the comparatively opulent wartime haunt of Charles de Gaulle, and later visited by King George VI. Its most celebrated guest was Graham Greene who made four trips to Freetown in his lifetime, immortalising both the city and the hotel in *The Heart of the Matter*.

It is nearly 30 years since Greene checked out. He first arrived in Freetown in 1935 on an expedition that aimed to combine adventure with research and provide inspiration for a book. At the time, as the only hotel in the capital, its bar proved a focal point for Sierra Leone's expatriate community, and its clientele profoundly influenced Greene's views on colonialism.

Greene returned to Freetown in 1942 as an intelligence

agent. The Vichy French in Guinea posed a threat to Allied interests; in addition West Africa was one of the principal routes used by German agents to procure industrial diamonds from Central Africa.

By this time Greene was more tormented than previously. In love with two women, his wife and mistress, he struggled in vain to find a painless compromise between the forces of love for an absent soulmate and desire for the sexually available.

In this frame of mind, and fuelled by his original mistrust of the ruling set, he wrote *The Heart of the Matter*. Greene spent much time drinking at the hotel, which



he calls The Bedford in the novel.

As an intelligence officer Greene had a number of imaginative plans. In 1942, the Allies were worried about the Vichy battleship, *Richelieu*, and the threat it posed to

Allied shipping. Docked for repairs at Dakar, about a thousand miles from Freetown, Greene was asked to find out the ship's state of readiness. He recruited a loyal French madame to open a brothel at Portuguese Bissau, down the coast from Dakar, hoping that French sailors frequenting it would give away details to the women working there. However, London turned down the idea.

It would doubtless amuse Greene to know that the City Hotel is itself a brothel today. In *The Heart of the Matter*, Wilson, a secret service man, satisfied his needs with Sierra Leone prostitutes for "ten bob". The hotel's small cartel

of girls today work its ten rooms for 2,000 Leons (\$2.50) a time.

Its Nigerian owner has disappeared; the manager and his family have fled to Guinea. They took with them some photographs of Greene, who last stayed there in 1967, as well as archive documents related to his work there.

"I am sitting on the balcony where Wilson sat at the City Hotel and saw Scobie," Greene wrote from Freetown in a letter to his lover in 1967. "It's very, very hot and sticky and I love Freetown." His views had changed considerably since 1942, when he called Freetown "this God-forsaken hole", a phrase more applicable to the Freetown of today.



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New fighting traps French

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

FRENCH interests in Africa took another battering yesterday as fierce fighting erupted in Brazzaville and French troops were embroiled in putting down a mutiny in Bangui, the capital of the neighbouring Central African Republic.

Artillery shells exploded in heavily populated shanty areas of Brazzaville as the last of

the French soldiers, who evacuated 1,500 foreigners from the city, prepared to leave.

At least 30 people were killed and nearly 100 wounded when mutineers in Bangui attacked peacekeepers from Senegal and Chad with mortar fire on Sunday. Five French civilians were wounded when two mortar rounds exploded inside the French Embassy compound. Bangui has long been an important

military base for French troops and was a springboard for French interventions in the former Zaire, Somalia, and Rwanda in recent years.

The renewed fighting in Brazzaville led to the Red Cross abandoning its attempts to clear bodies from the streets. "These blow-ups are making the French throw up their arms in dismay," a European ambassador said in Kinshasa yesterday.

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FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

powerful family lobby.

Jacques Baumele, the Gaullist deputy, said: "The decision is unjust and immoral."

M Jospin is on the defensive and his Government is engaged in a chaotic retreat from its initial position. The controversy underlines the difficulties M Jospin will face as he tries to ensure that the public spending deficit remains within the limit of 3 per cent of gross domestic product imposed on countries that want to join the proposed European single currency.

However, the proposal has angered Christian groups for whom the universal nature of

M. Jospin seems keen to avoid a conflict with religious militants and pedantic accountants. His government spokesman, Catherine Trautmann, said — before other ministers contradicted her — that families with three children would still receive family allowance regardless of income. Last night, Martine Aubry, the Employment Minister, added to the confusion by announcing a full consultation on the benefit.

BY ADAM SAGE

The Paris ambulance service told the newspaper *Le Parisien* yesterday that only 20 per cent of those who call it were ill enough to be kept in

The French are healthy — women live to an average of 81 years old, and men to 72 — and, with 60,000 GPs and 52,000 specialists, they have more doctors per head of population than almost any

With the social security deficit likely to reach Fr45 billion (£4.6 billion) this year, the overall French public deficit is set to be way above the 3 per cent ceiling imposed on countries wanting to join the single currency.



BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND RICHARD CLEROUX

The Queen's three-day visit has been a boon to the area's sagging economy. Merchants were hawkling T-shirts, keychains, towels and carved codfish featuring a combination of Cabot and royal emblems. Radio stations have

He steered the *Matthew* on a northward course, landing on present-day Cape Breton Island on June 24. Unfurled the English flag, the Italian took possession of the land for the English king. He believed that he had found Asia and returned to England, describing his "a new

Yesterday Daniel Ashini, a spokesman for the Innisfil Indian band, said: "There is nothing to commemorate. The colonisation of our people continues. We are not self-governing and our land is still being exploited."

To defuse tensions, the celebrations' organisers have removed all reference to Cabot as a "discoverer".

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, is set to survive today's crucial no-confidence vote in the Knesset despite threats from his own supporters and the most serious attempt yet made by left-wing opponents to overthrow him (Christopher Walker writes).

Speaking to reporters after hours of crisis meetings behind the scenes in the wake of last week's damaging resignation by Dan Meridor, the Finance Minister, Mr Netanyahu expressed optimism that the opposition Labour Party would fall short of the 61 votes in the 120-seat Knesset required to force new elections.

Naha, Okinawa: Okinawans marked the 52nd anniversary of the Second World War battles in their island between US and Japanese forces that killed more than 236,600 people, including a third of the civilian population, about 150,000 people. At a memorial ceremony, Masahide Ota, the local Governor, expressed anger about the continued presence of US bases that keep much of Okinawa out of bounds to its people. (AP)

Athens: Tourists were stranded at Athens airport when 20 flights were cancelled or delayed by up to four hours in a go-slow by Olympic Aviation engineers which affected flights to popular holiday islands such as Paros, Mykonos and Santorini. The mechanics have banned overtime and demand instead that Olympic, which is deeply in the red, should take on more staff. (Reuters)

Patna: Indian federal police indicted Laloo Prasad Yadav, head of the party of Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, in a £170 million corruption case that has shaken the Government which has been in office for only two months. The police said they had indicted Mr Yadav, chief minister of the eastern state of Bihar, and 55 others in the state capital, Patna. (Reuters)

Lagos: Hundreds of thousands of commuters were stranded in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial hub, as a five-week fuel shortage in Africa's leading crude oil producer showed no sign of abating. Nigeria's four crumbling refineries have a combined capacity of 445,000 barrels a day but produce only a fraction of that. (Reuters)

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

Church has felt threatened by the aggressive preaching of foreign missionaries, particularly American evangelical groups, who have succeeded in wooing the Russian flock from their traditional church.



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Whitewater team to see Hillary Clinton's notes

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

IN A rare victory for the struggling Whitewater investigation, Hillary Clinton will have to surrender notes of private conversations with White House lawyers after the Supreme Court rejected her appeal yesterday.

Kenneth Starr, the White-water prosecutor, who is battling to uphold the credibility and momentum of his three-year inquiry into the Clintons' involvement in murky Arkansas land deals, said the ruling would avoid delay in the "highly sensitive criminal investigation". According to court papers, he has called Mrs Clinton a central figure in his investigation.

Yesterday's decision marks the second recent Supreme Court setback for the Clintons after the ruling that Paula Jones, who has accused the President of asking her for oral sex while he was Governor of Arkansas, should be able to bring her case without delay. The ruling also establishes the principle that government lawyers, unlike private ones, are not covered by



Starr: fighting to defend credibility of inquiry

the rules of "lawyer-client privilege". Yesterday the White House called the decision extraordinary and unprecedented and said "it will substantially impair the ability of the Office of the President and other federal agencies to secure sound legal advice".

However, there is widespread expectation that the fiercely defended subpoenaed notes do not contain highly damaging details. The conservative

Wall Street Journal said on Thursday: "Nobody who knows Jane Sherburne [the White House lawyer in question] and how this Administration has functioned believes there is anything in these notes that incriminates the Clintons."

The notes represent one of the few remaining trails for Mr Starr to pursue. He is also trying to crack the silence of Webster Hubbell, who has served a sentence on a White-water-related charge, and Susan McDougal, now in jail on a White-water-related offence.

Mr Starr is also fighting for co-operation from Harold Ickes, Deputy Chief of Staff during Mr Clinton's first term, who so far has refused to speak to the Whitewater team or to congressional inquiries into campaign finance. Mr Ickes, who received tributes this weekend for his organisation of the Denver summit, flew back to Washington and into a wall of subpoenas.

But Mr Starr's investigation has come under increasing attack. Conservatives are fur-

ious that he has not made more headway after the prosecutions of minor figures and Clinton supporters argue that he is abusing the system to harass the Administration. Among other running sores, he has continued to represent tobacco companies, in the throes of a bitter fight with the Administration, during the Whitewater investigation, which critics say compromises his independence.

Abner Mikva, former White House counsel, and previously a strong defender of Mr Starr, has recently added to the attacks. "I am very disappointed in Ken Starr," he has said. "He has diminished the presidency and exacerbated all of the problems of the independent counsel."

Dissatisfaction with Mr Starr flared into furious criticism this spring when he announced plans to take up a university post. He denied that that implied the investigation was running out of steam. After calls for him to stay if there was still work to be done, he postponed his move.



Susan McDougal, appearing in public in chains

Jailed land deal partner for trial

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

SUSAN McDOUGAL, the Clintons' convicted White-water partner, was expected in court again yesterday facing charges of fraud from another famous couple, Zubin Mehta, the conductor, and his wife, Nancy.

McDougal, 49, who has been in almost perpetual solitary confinement since refusing to give evidence in the Whitewater case last year, faces charges that she stole more than \$140,000 (£85,000) while working as the Mehtas' personal accountant and general factotum. She has denied that she charged the money to Mrs Mehta's personal credit cards and forged her signature on 300 cheques during the three years until 1992 that she worked for the couple.

The case may prove the final ignominy for McDougal, who was once described as a complicated person from a close, religious family in Arkansas. Convicted and sentenced in the Whitewater trial, jailed for contempt and recently accused by her former husband of having had an affair with Bill Clinton, she now faces a possible nine-year sentence if convicted in the

Mehta case. McDougal, who has been kept in a 5ft by 9ft cell, only appearing in chains in public, has claimed that Mrs Mehta developed an obsession for her from the beginning.

The conductor's wife, she says, bought her \$2,000 worth of suits on their first shopping expedition and even asked her to change hair colour to make McDougal appear more like an executive. Her job was to manage Mrs Mehta's expensive properties in Brentwood and Malibu, leased to such celebrities as Tom Hanks and Tuesday Weld.

Mrs Mehta has remained almost silent about the matter, but is said to have hired another accountant who discovered that McDougal had skimmed money from the couple's bank accounts for travel, phone bills and a rented storage locker.

They went to the police in 1993 and the following December McDougal was charged with ten counts of fraud. "She was devastatingly deceitful," Mrs Mehta said at the time. "I could write a book on Susan McDougal, and it would be a blockbuster."

Over-eager CIA led Kennedy to back Bay of Pigs fiasco

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

AMERICA's disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961 happened not because President Kennedy was poorly advised, the traditional explanation, but because he backed an over-eager CIA against repeated warnings given by the Pentagon, according to newly declassified documents.

Kennedy, facing the crisis just weeks into his presidency, was told directly by the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon that the attempt to oust Fidel Castro with a band of 1,500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles "would have very little chance of success".

The documents cast a new light on the fiasco, on Kennedy's judgment and on the weaknesses of the CIA even then, at the height of its reputation.

In the ill-fated manoeuvre, 300 of the invading force were killed and 1,179 captured. A humiliated Kennedy was forced to bargain with President Castro for their release, secured only after 20 months and payment of a \$53 million (£32 million) ransom in baby

food, medicine and medical equipment.

The new picture of the disaster emerges from 1,100 pages of documents to be published by the State Department this month in its series, Foreign Relations of the United States, and obtained by USA Today.

They show that Kennedy personally took the decision to move the invasion point to the swampy Bay of Pigs on the southern coast from a less remote point farther to the east, and to reduce cover from the Air Force and Navy. Both of those decisions, many commentators have argued, were to prove fatal.

He leant heavily on the advice of the CIA, which said that the people of Cuba would rise up to support the invasion. The Pentagon, which was not directly involved in the plan, said that that would not happen.

Kennedy also dismissed warnings given to him by Arthur Schlesinger, a presidential adviser — and now a historian at the City University of New York — who advised on the cover-up that he was convinced would be necessary.

"When lies must be told, they should be told by subordinate officials," he wrote. "There seems to be merit in [the] suggestion that someone other than the President make the final decision and do it in his absence — someone whose head can later be placed on the block if things go terribly wrong."

Kennedy did not take that advice. One of the documents, recording the Cabinet meeting the day after the failure, describes the President's mood as "almost savage".



Kennedy ignored the Pentagon's advice

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Blair defies US pessimism over carbon cuts

CUTTING car use, spending around a billion pounds a year on a national home energy efficiency scheme and boosting renewable energy to 10 per cent of electricity production are some of the key ways in which Britain may meet its ambitious target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2010.

The United States, which is trying to block agreements this week at the Earth Summit II in New York to tackle global warming, claims the actions needed will destroy industrialised economies.

But experts advising British ministers disagree. While tackling global warming will be difficult and meeting the British target will be tough, it could create new jobs in areas of energy-saving goods and services, renewable energies such as waste-to-power and solar schemes and lead to warmer homes with benefits for the elderly and those on low incomes.

Nick Eyre, a former leading energy expert with the Department of Trade and Industry's Energy Technology Support Unit in Harwell, Oxfordshire, said yesterday: "The US position is rubbish. There will be benefits in terms of less congestion on our roads, warmer homes, better technologies and reduced health costs because of the cleaner air."

The researcher has published a definitive study on how the British target could be met. It equates to saving 30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. Cutting energy use from transport is a key area the Government needs to tackle.

The attack could be two-pronged, with Britain either curbing car use or supporting sharp improvements in fuel efficiency. Measures to meet this target include higher fuel taxes, parking charges and tougher restrictions on car use in cities. Experts calculate that reduction of carbon dioxide could come from improving the fuel efficiency of the average car from eight litres per 100 kilometres or 40 miles a gallon to five litres per 100 kilometres (56 mpg). The mea-



A new study claims Britain can cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent, reports Nick Nuttall in New York

asures are being studied by the European Union's environment council. It is thought that, if manufacturers can get such cars on the road by 2005, half of the cars in Europe could meet the new target by 2010.

Tax measures, such as bigger annual charges for the road licence on fuel-inefficient cars, will be needed too.

Britain's homes are the least energy-efficient in Europe. Six million tonnes of carbon could be saved by a scheme that lags homes and boilers and promotes energy efficient devices. Bringing homes up to better standards, believed to be a 30 per cent improvement, would cost between £500 and £1,000 per house. Some of this can be achieved by grants and incentives. However, a big pot of funds will be needed which, according to experts, needs to

come from levies on the electricity and gas industries so that £500 million a year comes from Government with this matched by industry over ten years.

Renewable energies contribute 2 per cent to Britain's energy needs. The Government has pledged to raise this to 10 per cent by 2010, saving between three and four million tonnes of carbon a year. Combined heat and power systems that recycle the heat from a power plant rather than venting it to the air are being installed at big power stations and also as mini-power stations in hotels and other businesses.

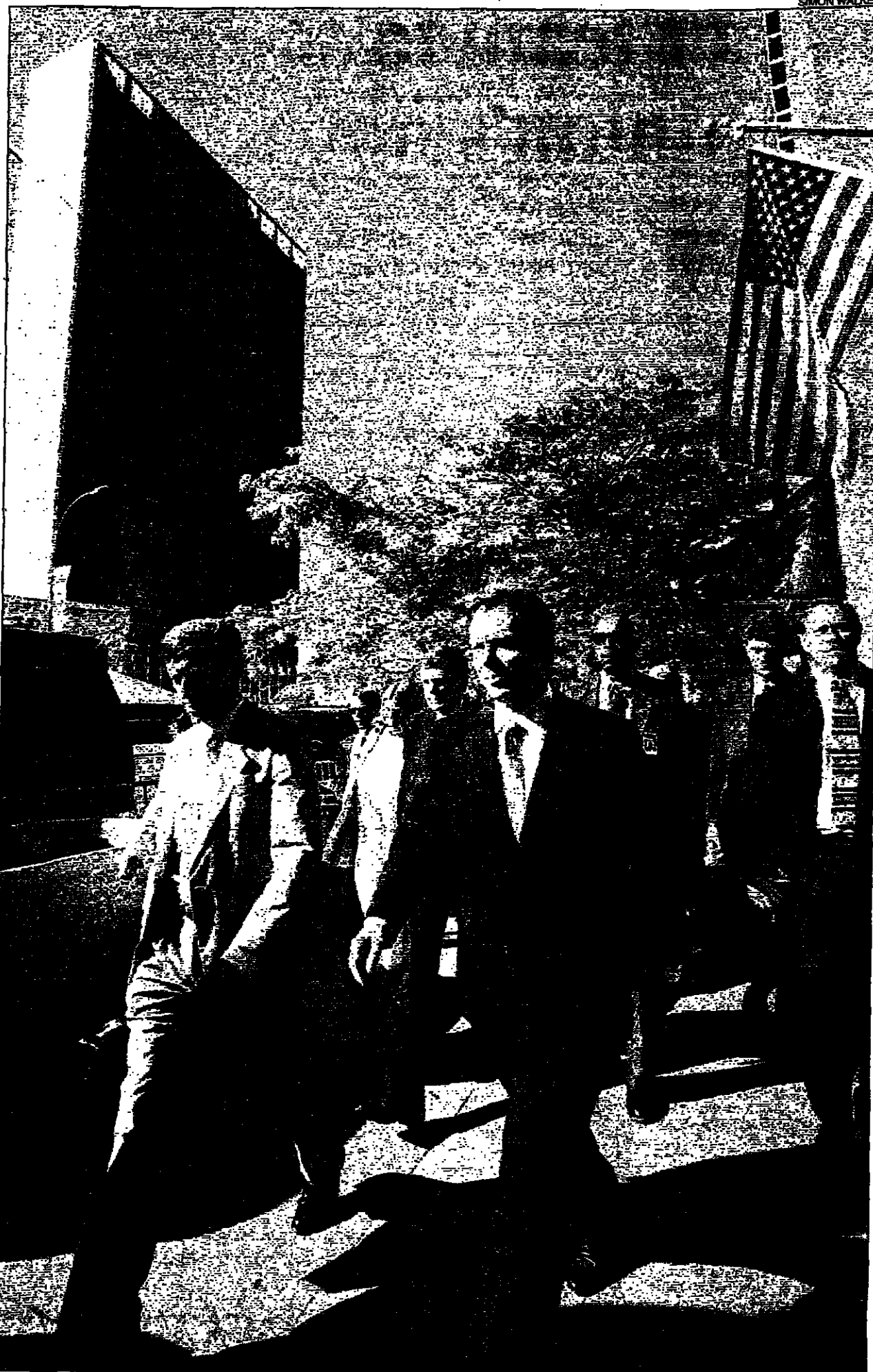
At present there are 3,500 megawatts of combined heat and power systems installed, and the Government has set a target of 10,000 megawatts by 2010. This will save two million tonnes. Mr Eyre, whose report is published by the think-tank, the Socialist Environment and Resources Association, said yesterday that the target could be reasonably raised to 12,000 megawatts.

A business energy tax to reduce industry's use of energy could deliver a reduction of around eight million tonnes of carbon. Experts believe technology is available to energy-intensive industries, such as chemicals firms, to make significant savings if fuel becomes more expensive. To ensure that this does not damage British or European competitiveness and lead to unemployment, the Government may need to consider cuts in National Insurance contributions to make labour cheaper.

Leading article, page 23
□ Taking a Cool Look: Policies to Reduce UK Carbon Dioxide Emission by 20 per cent. SERA. 11 Goodwin St. London N4.



Overheated: traffic jams bring global warming



Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, at the United Nations in New York to deliver a speech on the environment

Japan to protect reefs and fight acid rain

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN NEW YORK

JAPAN announced an environmental initiative to monitor acid rain in East Asia, protect coral reefs in the Pacific and transfer technology to developing countries so they can clean up their environment.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, told the summit's opening session that Japan remained committed to the goals of the 1992 Rio agreement despite "severe budgetary constraints".

"We must change our lifestyles," he said, urging countries "to develop innovative environmental technologies and to promote their transfer to developing countries in order to foster sustainable development".

He said Japan would do its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the other targets set in Rio. Mr Hashimoto dubbed the Japanese plan, aimed at develop-

EAST ASIA

ing countries, the "Initiative for Sustainable Development toward the Twenty-First Century".

He said the initiative would include:

□ Promotion of an Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia to keep track of acid rain in the region

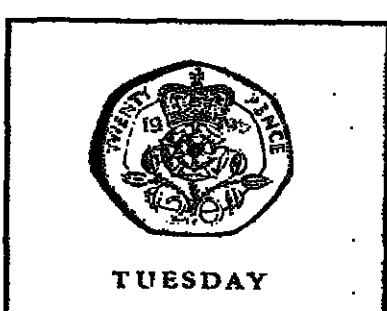
□ Transfer of technology to developing countries

□ Promotion of clean water and sewerage systems

□ Co-operation to save forests and coral reefs in the Pacific.

Mr Hashimoto said Japan would establish a research centre on coral reef preservation in East Asia and the Pacific "which may be expected to play a central role in creating a network for research co-operation". He also emphasised the importance of environmental education.

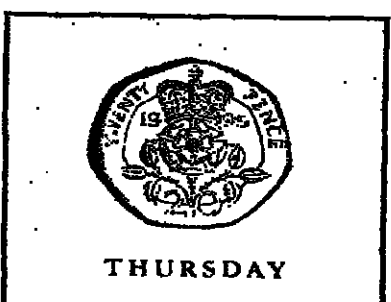
He said that nations of the world must "renew our determination and seriously consider concrete measures to promote sustainable development".



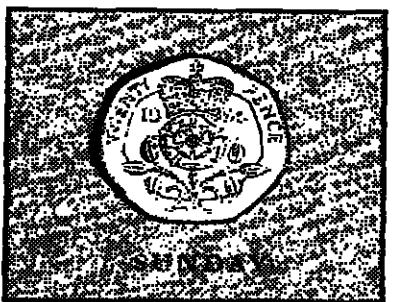
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سنة ١٤١٩

Britain allows China extra troops

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN HONG KONG

THE British Government has accepted a Chinese request that an extra contingent of the People's Liberation Army be allowed into Hong Kong before the handover of sovereignty to Beijing in a week.

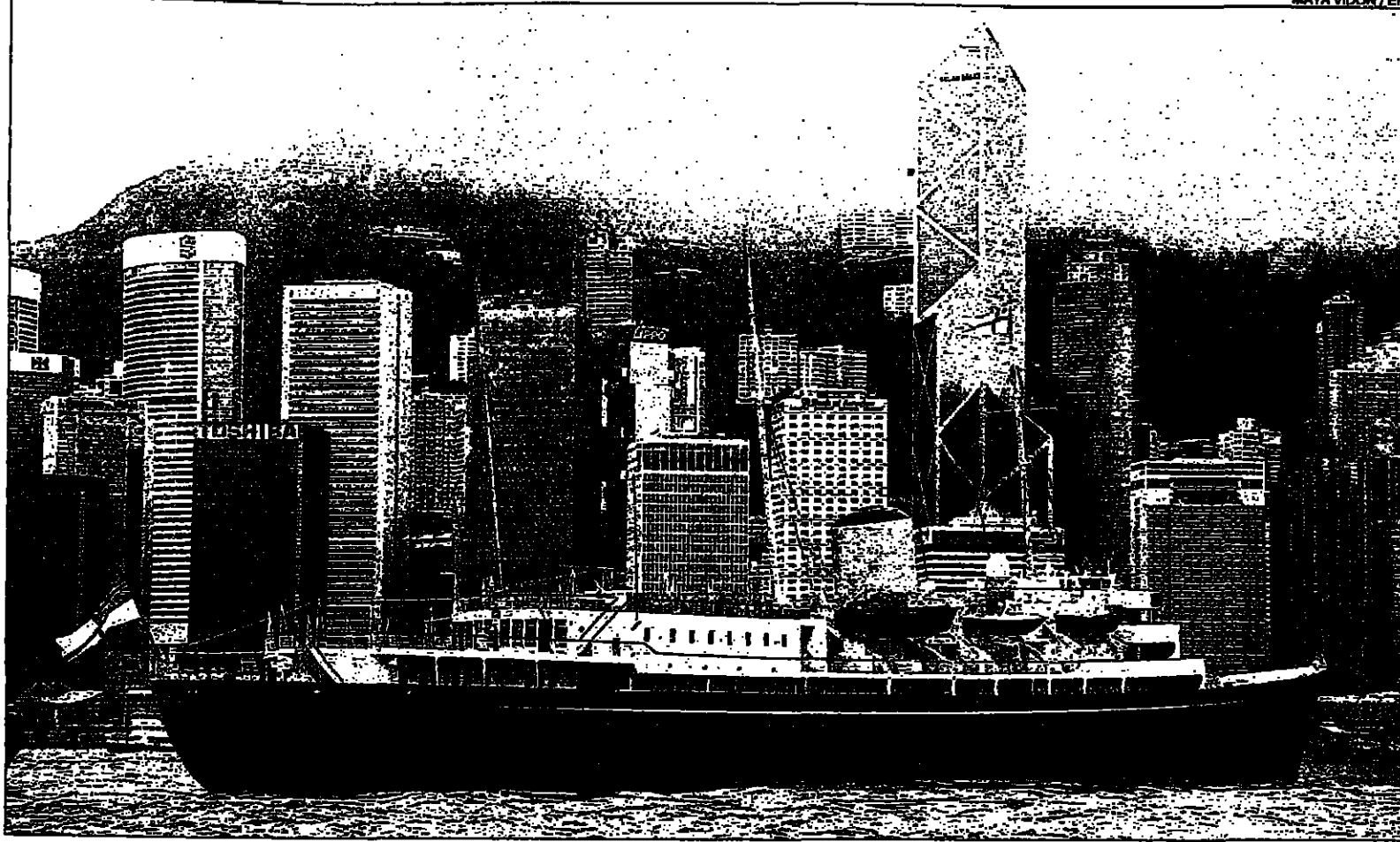
Only last week Britain had insisted that there should be no extra troops deployed before the handover. The Chinese responded with what one source called "outrageous demands" which are understood to have included troops driving into the centre of Hong Kong in armoured personnel carriers.

The agreement has taken six weeks of bargaining, during which the Chinese were reminded of the panic the sight of armoured personnel carriers was likely to cause. A fresh agreement was concluded yesterday, allowing the troops on to what will still be British territory three hours before the handover.

The Chinese will arrive in buses and will be distributed across five barracks throughout the territory, one of which will be the Prince of Wales Barracks overlooking the harbour. This will mean that they will probably go past thousands of Hong Kong people marking the handover.

The 70 men at the Prince of Wales barracks will take part in a formal handover of the base at midnight with a colour lowering ceremony marking the end of the British military presence. The Chinese soldiers will not be carrying arms but will have light arms stored.

The British have now pronounced themselves content with the new arrangement, saying that it will "smooth the way" for the military transition. The agreement appears to draw a line under what has



The Royal Yacht Britannia, base for the Prince of Wales during the handover ceremonies, sails into Hong Kong harbour yesterday

been the most sensitive part of the handover negotiations. It illustrates Beijing's worries about a power vacuum for a period after the British leave, a period which could be exploited by opponents of the handover.

Martin Lee, leader of the opposition Democratic party, has indicated that he and members of his party are ready to be arrested and there are others who would be willing to make martyrs of themselves. The situation has

been made more sensitive after Elsie Leung, the new Justice Secretary, announced that laws on security — to be passed three hours after the handover by a new provisional legislature — will be retrospective.

The new nervousness over the handover has been matched by Taiwan's decision to press on with a new round of military exercises. President Lee yesterday reviewed the first advanced new aircraft delivered from the United

States and France at a southern air base. He looked over examples of the American F16 and the French Mirage 2000-5 in an obvious signal to Beijing that Taiwan has no intention of joining Hong Kong in any new accommodation with the Chinese. In March last year China lobbed a number of missiles into the sea around Taiwan during elections.

Taiwan insisted that the latest war games, entitled "Chinese glory", were nothing to do with the handover of

Hong Kong, but President Lee's high-profile televised visit to Tainan air base left nobody in any doubt as to his intention.

On Sunday Beijing's official Xinhua news agency issued a commentary welcoming Hong Kong's return to China under the "one country, two systems" slogan as a model for Taiwan's own "reunification with the motherland." The Hong Kong press has speculated that China will respond with exercises of its own.

Yacht arrives: The Royal Yacht Britannia docked in Hong Kong yesterday, taking centre stage in Victoria Harbour for Britain's farewell to its last major chunk of empire (Catherine Field writes).

Britannia will provide a sober backdrop to what is expected to be an emotional ceremony on June 30. The Prince of Wales will use the yacht as an official residence when he flies in on Saturday for his final trip to Hong Kong under British rule.

Canada urged to extradite Pol Pot for trial

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE United States is pushing Canada to take custody of Pol Pot, the former Cambodian tyrant, until an international tribunal can be set up to try him for genocide.

Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, asked her Canadian counterpart, Lloyd Axworthy, during the Denver summit to seek extradition of the Khmer Rouge leader, who has reportedly been captured by a rival faction in northern Cambodia, under Canada's far-reaching genocide law.

Canada and Denmark are the only two countries with domestic genocide laws that permit the extradition of the perpetrators of crimes against humanity in such circumstances. "We will be seeking to make sure that there is international justice carried out against this major war criminal," Mrs Albright said.

More than a million Cambodians died from executions, starvation and forced labour when Pol Pot's reign of terror turned the country into a "killing field" in the late 1970s. Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, Cambodia's feuding Prime Ministers, petitioned Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, at the weekend for international assistance in "bringing to justice those persons responsible for the genocide and crimes against humanity during the rule of the Khmer Rouge".

The two co-premiers, who have shared power since a UN-supervised election in 1992 after years of civil war, fear that fighting could erupt again if Pol Pot is put on trial in the capital, Phnom Penh. Last week, a firefight broke out in Phnom Penh between followers of the two leaders.

Both men have been associated with Pol Pot in the past. Hun Sen joined the Khmer Rouge in the early 1970s and was wounded as its guerrillas closed in on Phnom Penh in 1975. After serving as a mid-ranking military commander during its brutal regime, he broke with the group in 1977 and fled to Vietnam, returning two years later to head a



Albright calls Pol Pot a major war criminal

Vietnamese-installed government.

During the 1980s, Prince Ranariddh's royalist forces fought alongside the Khmer Rouge against Hun Sen's Government and Vietnam's occupying army. The prince said yesterday that some people in Cambodia did not want Pol Pot tried because they feared being implicated in his crimes.

The Americans want to remove Pol Pot from Cambodia even before an international tribunal can be set up to try him under the 1947 Genocide Convention. The United States has told Canada it is prepared to organise a military team to airlift him out of the country, and American officials are drawing up a plan with Australia and other nations on how to remove him.

Once he is safely in Canadian custody, an international tribunal could be constituted either under the 1991 Cambodian peace accords or by extending the jurisdiction of the existing UN war crimes tribunal for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. Canadian officials say Washington has asked Canada to host the tribunal.

The main obstacle to establishing a new tribunal is likely to be China, which has backed Pol Pot's Maoist group since the 1960s and could use its veto in the UN Security Council to block an effort to put him on trial.

Mr Annan has expressed his support for bringing Pol Pot to justice.

Patten wins final battle for hearts and minds

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY
IN HONG KONG



Tung: support declined after he set out policy

RIGHT down to the final handover on July 1, Chris Patten, the Governor, and his successor, Tung Chee-hwa, Beijing's Chief Executive-designate, are competing for the affection of Hong Kong's 6.3 million people.

In the opinion polls not much separates them: each is approved by roughly half of those polled. But as Mr Tung has put forward his policies, especially those limiting freedom of speech and assembly, and directed the Beijing-approved Provisional Legislature to begin legislating his programme, his support has declined.

It is surprising that Mr Tung secures as much support as he does. Michael



DeGolyer, Hong Kong's leading pollster, in a poll just completed of 1,100 people, says: "Mr Tung and his allies — older men, rich, born in China — are probably the least representative group in Hong Kong, and they are making a mistake if they think most people here agree with them on fundamental issues, right down to whether people think they are Chinese, a Hong Kong person, or a Chinese person."

For Mr Patten life is rela-

tively easy and he appears to be enjoying himself. He no longer makes policy or struggles and debates with the civil service and legislators. He no longer needs to shrug off personal attacks from Beijing, such as being called a "whore", as China now treats him with indifference. The Governor need only preside and next week board Britannia and sail away.

He is not invited to the "summit" between British and Chinese leaders on the night of the handover, nor will he make a speech at the final ceremony. In the words of one official, the Governor will be "a dignified presence".

He is doing what he does and enjoys best. Mr Patten goes on walkabouts where people crowd about him and he exchanges hugs with old

ladies. If there is a child he is delighted and shows it. He distributes knighthoods and the full panoply of lesser honours, medals, and awards; there will be a full Government House when the Prince of Wales performs the ceremonial handover.

He gives many small press conferences and countless interviews to the growing army of visiting journalists. He acts as disc jockey to play his favourite music on the radio and makes clear that Strauss's *Four Last Songs*, especially *Abendrot*, about sunset, are his favourites.

Mr Patten hits hard. He says China and Mr Tung do not really understand Hong Kong; the implication is that Mr Patten, despite his few execrably pronounced words of Chinese, really does.



Patten: 'dignified presence' to the end

India and Pakistan chart peace course

FROM ZAHID HUSAIN
IN ISLAMABAD

INDIA and Pakistan took a significant step yesterday towards easing tensions between them as they agreed to start negotiations on the Kashmir problem, the main cause of conflict between the two countries.

A joint communiqué, issued after four days of talks between the Indian and Pakistani Foreign Secretaries here,

said the two countries had agreed to a mechanism to hammer out all major and outstanding issues. India and Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir in the 50 years since they both attained independence.

The agreement was reached in the second round of talks between Shamsah Ahmed, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, and Salman Haider, his Indian counterpart. They said other issues such as peace and

security, terrorism and drug trafficking, and economic co-operation, would be discussed when they meet in Delhi in September.

Both countries also agreed to prevent hostile actions against each other. As part of a confidence-building measure, they are to free almost 400 fishermen and 61 boats being detained for illegal fishing in each other's waters.

The agreement is seen as a breakthrough in relations be-

tween the two estranged neighbours. "The agreement provides a basis for comprehensive and sustainable dialogue," Mr Haider said.

Mr Ahmed described the agreement as a significant step towards the establishment of good neighbourly relations. But he gave a warning that the road ahead was tough. "We have no illusions about the complexities which lie ahead, but we will continue negotiations in all sincerity."

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The surgical secrets of the human heart

You cannot properly understand the secrets of the human heart until you have seen, in vivid close-up, the surgeon's knife reach into the left ventricle and neatly sever the mitral valve.

You cannot appreciate the intricacy of needlework deep in the cavities of the chest until you have watched an artificial valve, a cheap-looking plastic button, descend slowly on 15 gossamer threads to seal the gap. And you cannot grasp the skill with which the most delicate of human tissue is sewn together until you have peered through the eye of an inquiring camera as the curved needle, magnified tenfold, pulls the suture tight and secures that lifesaving button in place.

Until recently, it has not been possible to carry out those delicate manoeuvres without an invasion of the human body more appropriate to the butcher's shop than the hospital theatre.

For those who have never seen a heart operation before, this is the bit that is hardest to take. The breastbone is sawed open, pulled apart by a ratchet, then clamped in position so that the surgeon can begin the work of exposing the heart.

It is this, as much as anything else, that subjects the patient to trauma and prolongs the recovery process. **Ciro Campanella**, a leading heart surgeon at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, describes it as "surgical assault".

Now 48, a native of Rome,

Ciro Campanella has pioneered a revolutionary new technique in non-invasive heart surgery. Magnus Linklater watches him operate

he trained originally under **Christiaan Barnard** at Groote Schuur Hospital, then went to America to study a new form of heart surgery at Stanford University. Now he has begun to develop it further at Edinburgh, and has performed the first of the new heart-valve operations in Britain.

Known as port-access heart surgery, it avoids opening up the chest, instead entering the ribcage through a small hole about the size of a billiard ball. This "minimally invasive" procedure has enormous advantages for the recovering patient. "There is less complication, less pain, less bleeding, fewer respiratory problems," Mr Campanella says. "But," he adds, "this is not surgery for beginners."

He can say that again. Watching one of his operations lasting four hours, I was stunned by the skill, the technology and the teamwork involved.

The patient, **Joseph Ewan**, from Edinburgh, was 79, and

though, as a keen gardener, he was fit, there were inevitable concerns about age. Mr Campanella offered him the chance to try the new technique, believing it would impose less strain, and Mr Ewan leapt at it.

As he was wheeled into the theatre, I counted 20 people in attendance, double the number needed for a conventional valve replacement operation. Rows of monitors, four different kinds of camera, and a collection of specially developed instruments signalled that this was high-tech surgery at its most advanced.

"The point is," says one of the team, "that the less you do on the inside, the more help you need on the outside."

The new technique is more than just keyhole surgery. For one thing, a new way had to be found to stop the heart and transfer its functions to the lifesaving cardiopulmonary bypass machine. Normally the blood supply is diverted by putting a clamp across the

aorta at the top of the heart. But without direct access to that massive artery through an open chest, another method had to be found.

"After 30 years of studying how to stop the heart and start it again, we have found a new means," Mr Campanella says. "We stop the heart through the groin."

A long catheter is inserted into a vein in the groin and pushed up into position in the right atrium of the heart. A second tube is inserted through an artery.

These provide the vital links with the heart-lung machine which takes over during the operation. A second catheter with a small balloon at the end of it is passed up through the same artery and positioned close to the heart.

By inflating the balloon the blood supply to the heart is closed off, while a cold solution containing potassium stops its function altogether. The positioning of the balloon proved to be one of the most intricate manoeuvres of all.

Two kinds of camera — an X-ray machine over the chest, and a sonic camera down the oesophagus — helped Mr Campanella to position it with pinpoint accuracy.

"We are operating a millimetre from death," he observes calmly. "It doesn't always go right."

Meanwhile, a tiny video camera on the end of another tube peered through a hole in the ribs. This gave us our most breathtaking view of the pulsating heart.

"My God," one of the anaesthetists says, watching it in awe. "All we need is **Sigourney Weaver** and we'll be right in the middle of *Aliens*."

But Mr Campanella glanced at it rarely. Instead, he was carrying out his repair work at a distance, probing through the narrow access point with long instruments to reach down behind the heart where the damaged valve lay.

He needed light, he needed magnifying spectacles, he needed the steadiest of hands and absolute concentration.

Above all, he needed a team alert to his instant commands — there were endless checks on Mr Ewan's temperature, blood flow, heart activity and blood pressure, all constantly monitored.

It was clear that, whatever its advantages for the patient, this was gruelling work for the surgeon. On several occasions Mr Campanella had to stop to nurse strength back into his cramped left hand.

Inserting a stitch and pulling it tight without tearing the delicate tissue of the heart is, at the best of times, a demanding operation.

To perform it at the end of a nine-inch pair of surgical tongs requires a different level of skill. Mr Campanella tells his students that if they can sew a bar of soft soap without pulling the stitch free they are beginning to get the hang of it. The last stages of the operation are also the most nerve-racking.

The blood is transferred back to the heart, the bypass machine is turned off, all eyes switch to the heart monitor. Will it respond?

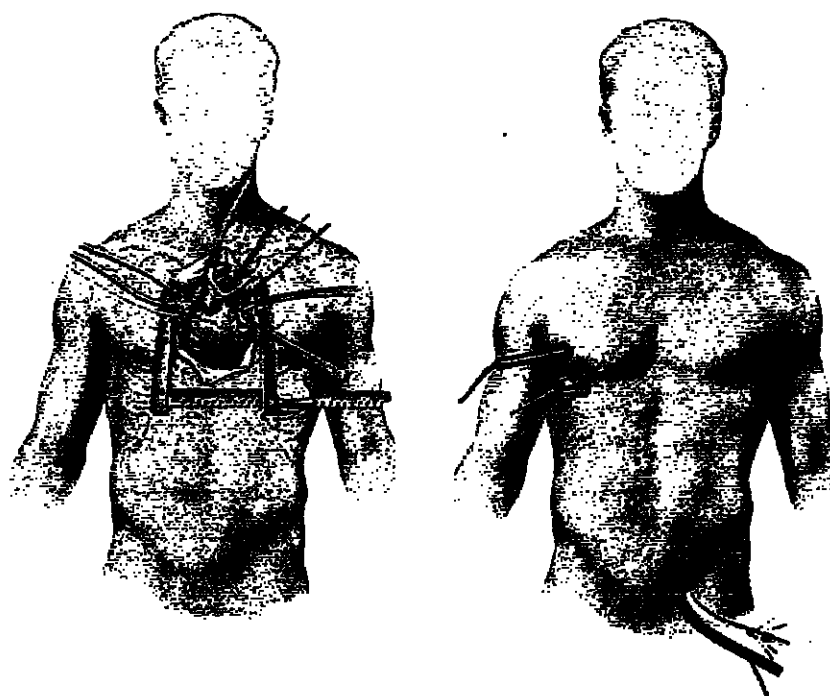
Frequently, help is needed in the form of electric fibrillators, or even hand massage direct to the heart. Sometimes, the chest has to be opened and the operation begun again.

"You always have to expect the unexpected," Mr Campanella says. "If something can go wrong, it will go



Ciro Campanella: "We are operating a millimetre from death. It doesn't always go right."

PROCEDURE THAT TAKES A SURGEON THROUGH THE KEYHOLE



TRADITIONAL open-chest mitral heart valve surgery involves extreme measures, far left. An incision is made in the chest and the skin is peeled back to reveal the sternum. The sternum is cut from top to bottom (sternotomy) and a ratchet clamp is used to prise open the two halves, allowing access to the heart cavity with circulation supported by cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB). Recovery from a sternotomy is a significant part of convalescence. The latest technique is port-access minimally invasive mitral valve surgery, left. CPB is still used, but sternotomy is no longer necessary. Incisions are much less drastic, with consequently less trauma to the patient and a faster recovery. The port-access technology used by **Ciro Campanella** was developed and made by **Heartport Inc** in Redwood City, California.



The rise and rise of Radiohead: Dublin triumph for the band of the moment
PAGES 20 and 21

PMT? OSTEOPOROSIS? MENOPAUSE?

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A voyage round Cardboard City

Research for his new novel led John Mortimer to make friends with London's homeless.

The homeless beggars in cardboard boxes behind the Savoy have become accustomed to finding John Mortimer looming alongside them. "Nice, gentle people," he says — Mortimer is incapable of an illiberal thought — "who talked about Rumpole, and read the *Evening Standard*." This nocturnal research was carried out for his new novel *Felix in the Underworld*, in which a novelist, to whom nothing much ever happens, is driven by circumstances to experience life at rock bottom in Cardboard City.

Mortimer is now friendly with several of the characters who sleep out between Lincoln's Inn and Shell-Mex House, guarding their territory and setting out their possessions as carefully as sailors or monks. He says apart from the young, who may be drug addicts and prostitutes, and a few "totally mad old women", they tend to be "confused middle-aged men who just can't cope after their families fall apart. Or young soldiers so institutionalised after the Army they can't look after themselves."

"One businessman I met couldn't face the back-tax he owed: he sleeps in the doorway of the Inland Revenue in Kingsway. You can make 30 quid a night, and if they spend it on six-packs of lager I don't mind," Mortimer says. "It's a perfectly honourable profession. I've never found them at all threatening." But then he was accompanied by the Queen's chaplain from the Savoy Chapel, or the homeless police from Charing Cross.

"I'm very much in favour of giving money to beggars; I feel no moral outrage. After all, I beg the entire time. For the Royal Court I'm holding out my hand for £5 million."

He says politicians from Bill Clinton to Jack Straw tell us we live "inside a stockade of property-owning, law-abiding, decent people. Outside are ravening hordes of alien beings who must be kept at bay. I wanted to show how we're all part of the same society, and how Felix could be reduced to living among them."

We discuss the homeless in the Garrick Club — "the Sheridan" in the novel, as in Rumpole. Sir Jeremy Isaacs and Melvyn Bragg sit near by: all three have been to see David Hare's new play. Mortimer told Hare he found it "irritatingly good". "Ah, envy," said Hare, "that's the best tribute you could pay me."

In a novel full of recognisable caricatures from the publishing world, I am struck by a quotation from Chekhov (Felix is known as "the Chekhov of Coldsands-on-Sea"). It's the novelist Trigorin in *The Seagull* saying: "I am haunted night and day by one persistent thought. I ought to be writing. I ought to be writing. I ought to be writing. I ought to be writing. I ought to be writing. Oh, it is an absurd life!" Mortimer, the Trigorin of

the Thames Valley, is equally driven, even at 73. "It's a ludicrous life. The endless compulsion to write, knowing that at the end they'll say 'he wasn't as good as Turgenev'." It is hard to imagine when you see him at convivial literary gatherings, but Mortimer can be gripped by gloomy self-doubt, assuageable only by writing more and more.

This year he has completed a new play — he'd almost forgotten how — plus a film script for Franco Zeffirelli, *Tea With Mussolini*, and a film of Jessica Mitford's *Hons and Rebels*. He's now writing a *Paradise Postponed* update in which Leslie (now Lord) Timmuss colludes with Labour to defeat those who overthrew Thatcher. When not writing, he is out performing his anthology, *Mortimer's Miscellany*, in improbable venues. "The adrenalin, the relief when it's over, no drug could produce the sensation. Like delivering your final speech in a murder trial — when you know the jury will do the rest."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Back we go in the car drinking champagne and eating petrol-station sandwiches."

His fees go to Turville Village School, bought for £220,000 and now run as a nursery school, open in the hols to deprived inner-city children. It was his wife Penny's project and it bitterly divided their village near Henley. "But we've already had one lot of children, and the villagers who had objected didn't even notice they were there. It's an excellent example of what can be achieved when people take matters into their own hands."

Jeremy Paxman's recent £100-a-head quiz at the River Café raised £18,000 for it; Tom Stoppard and Nick Hornby's table won, beating last year's winner John Gross "who knows the answer to everything, even who wrote *Bambi*".

On election night, before dancing with the party faithful at the Festival Hall, the Mortimer

went to see Ian Holm's *King Lear* — "I took off my glasses when he took off his clothes" — and found Edgar's final speech peculiarly appropriate: "Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say..." "We hadn't been allowed to say what we felt for so long. And everyone still seems pleased. I've never seen so many pleased Conservatives."

However, he knows he is unlikely to become Lord Mortimer under the new regime, having been so vociferous against the foxhunting Bill. He has never hunted a fox himself, but Penny cuts a fine figure on a horse and runs a campaign, *Leave Country Sports Alone*. As a result they get sent disgusting things through the post.

The Bill suggests authoritarianism, political correctness, a tendency to believe that you should send people to prison just for doing something you don't like. Labour is fooling about with things that don't matter. Foxhunting doesn't matter a twit, does it?

"If liberty means anything it means tolerance of people who do things you don't approve of, like smoking and foxhunting. Did you notice that on 'Leave your car at home day' a record number of cars came out on the streets of London? Every street was choked. You only have to try to ban something to make it really popular. The Labour Party has to understand: intolerance backfires."

However genial and expansive Mortimer's public persona, he keeps self-revelation firmly at bay, just as he did in his days as a persuasive advocate, "always saying what your client wants you to say, or what the judge or jury would like to hear."

But as a writer, too, he has created his own mythology of himself. Even his autobiographies are masterpieces of non-revelation, written to amuse. "An interview is a work of fiction really," he says. "People say only as much as they want, and invent roles for themselves. Evelyn Waugh invented that person, and performed it — and then the wind changed and he was stuck with it."

He had been reading a new life of Chekhov and said he preferred not to know that Chekhov behaved like a cheetah: "Cheetahs can't make love to the same cheetah twice, they have to run and get another cheetah. Which is interesting, but it doesn't really add to one's insight into Chekhov. I absolutely worship Dickens, but I don't need to know that he nailed up his wife's bedroom door and had a mistress. I love Matisse, but I'd rather not know that he collaborated with the Gestapo."



Roughing it at the Savoy: John Mortimer at the rear of the hotel where he conducted his research among the homeless — "nice, gentle people"

'I wouldn't turn up wearing black'

I am at that funny age. For the first time in my life I am receiving wedding invitations addressed to me rather than to my parents with me as an obligatory addendum. This summer, three of my old muckers will be tying the knot. One of them is my ex-boyfriend.

On the day he made the announcement, my telephone was red hot. It seemed that everyone who had been a part of my life during the period when the ex and I were joined at the hip called up "just to see how I was".

After the first caller, I could disappoint the vultures by not even sounding surprised. I could hear the impatience in their voices as they asked polite questions about work and I made every single one of them listen to a protracted talk about the troublesome plumbing in my tarty rented house before I would let them get to the point. All the time, they were longing to ask me: "Have you

When an ex-boyfriend decided to marry, Chris Manby didn't mind at all — until she found she wasn't invited to the wedding

heard? How do you feel about it? Don't you wish that it was you?"

How do I feel about it, I asked myself. A man I have not spoken to for three years is getting married to a woman I have never met. I feel just about the same as I did when Liam and Patsy took their vows. Largely emotionally unaffected... but if I'm completely honest, I wouldn't have minded an invitation.

You see, there's the rub. While I promise that I really am not harbouring "it could have been me" feelings, I do get a little stab of pain each time one of the gang of pals the ex and I shared calls up for advice on wedding presents for my former beloved. Just about everyone has been invited, even the people who were on my side

during the crockery-throwing stage of our relationship's decline.

My ex's wedding is going to be the biggest gathering of my college friends since graduation and I'm not going to be there to see the likes of Jane from Sydney and Fred from Russia who won't make it back to England for another million years.

Perhaps it is tasteless to invite an ex, but if they could spare me one little invitation, I swear I wouldn't turn up wearing black while making up a just impediment. I could do that without an invitation, after all. Besides, the bad fairy at my ex's wedding is far more likely to be the girl who came between me and his current squeeze.

She quit her job to join him abroad a week before he announced that her employers were not the only people who had been busy finding a replacement for her.

Ah well. I am not entirely without reasons to buy a hat this summer. One more problem. The invitations that I do have stipulate "and guest".

Whom should I take? How long do you have to know a man before you can ask him to be your escort to a wedding? In fact, can you ever safely take along a man who hasn't already proposed to you for fear of having him think that the whole day is supposed to be a hint?

My current boyfriend has expressed complete antipathy to the prospect of accompanying me down the aisle. Even if it is only halfway, to sit behind the bride's cousins. Something tells me that I'll be taking up those invitations alone. Still, it's supposed to be easy to pull at a wedding reception, isn't it?

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Desolation in bulk: Germany's huge *Documenta* show strikes a predominantly sombre note



■ VISUAL ART 2

Nine centuries of early Chinese Buddhist sculpture goes on display in London

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC

The best of Fischer-Dieskau: Building a Library selects the great baritone's top CDs

■ DANCE

Metaphysical but long-winded: Japan's Saburo Teshigawara brings his latest work to London



VISUAL ART: Richard Cork at the massive but depressing *Documenta* show in Kassel. Plus London exhibitions

All tracks lead to nightmare

An astonishing cascade of journalists descended on Kassel, for *Documenta*, the jumbo-size global round-up of contemporary art which galvanises this sleepy German city every five years. To accommodate them, the press conference was shifted to a vast auditorium at the Stadthalle. But Catherine David, *Documenta*'s oddly defensive French organiser, was in no mood to communicate. She contemptuously dismissed most questions as "foolish" or "ridiculous". As a public relations warm-up, the event was a disaster. But at least she deigned to point out the significance of the show's itinerary, starting at the old railway station and moving in a line through the centre of Kassel towards the Baroque flamboyance of the white-and-gold Orangerie. Modern urban experience is her governing theme.

There is nothing celebratory about David's vision, though. An air of dereliction prevails at the disused station. The Viennese artist Lois Weinberger has planted weeds between the rusting tracks, and smashed up Tarmac in the car park like a drunken vandal. On the platforms, violence becomes more alarming. Tunga, from Brazil, hangs skulls over giant straw boats and dangles body parts, severed and trussed, above an equally enormous brown felt hat.

Sigalit Landau's corrugated metal container on a nearby platform is scarcely more reassuring. She calls it *Resident Alien*, and once inside the stifling chamber we are forced to stagger across a mountainous, misshapen floor. Then, at the far end, a box hangs from the roof. Poke your head up inside it, and you quickly realise that you have passed through the hole in a "Turkish toilet". Working in Jerusalem, Landau dramatises the plight of dispossessed communities with anger and disgust.

Down in the shabbiness of the underground passages leading to Kassel's main pedestrian precinct the mood becomes more desolate. Mounted in a light box and gleaming like neon in the gloom, Jeff Wall's large colour photograph shows a man squatting against a

brick wall. He looks haggard, and the milk spurting from the paper bag in his hand is as forceful and unexpected as a scream.

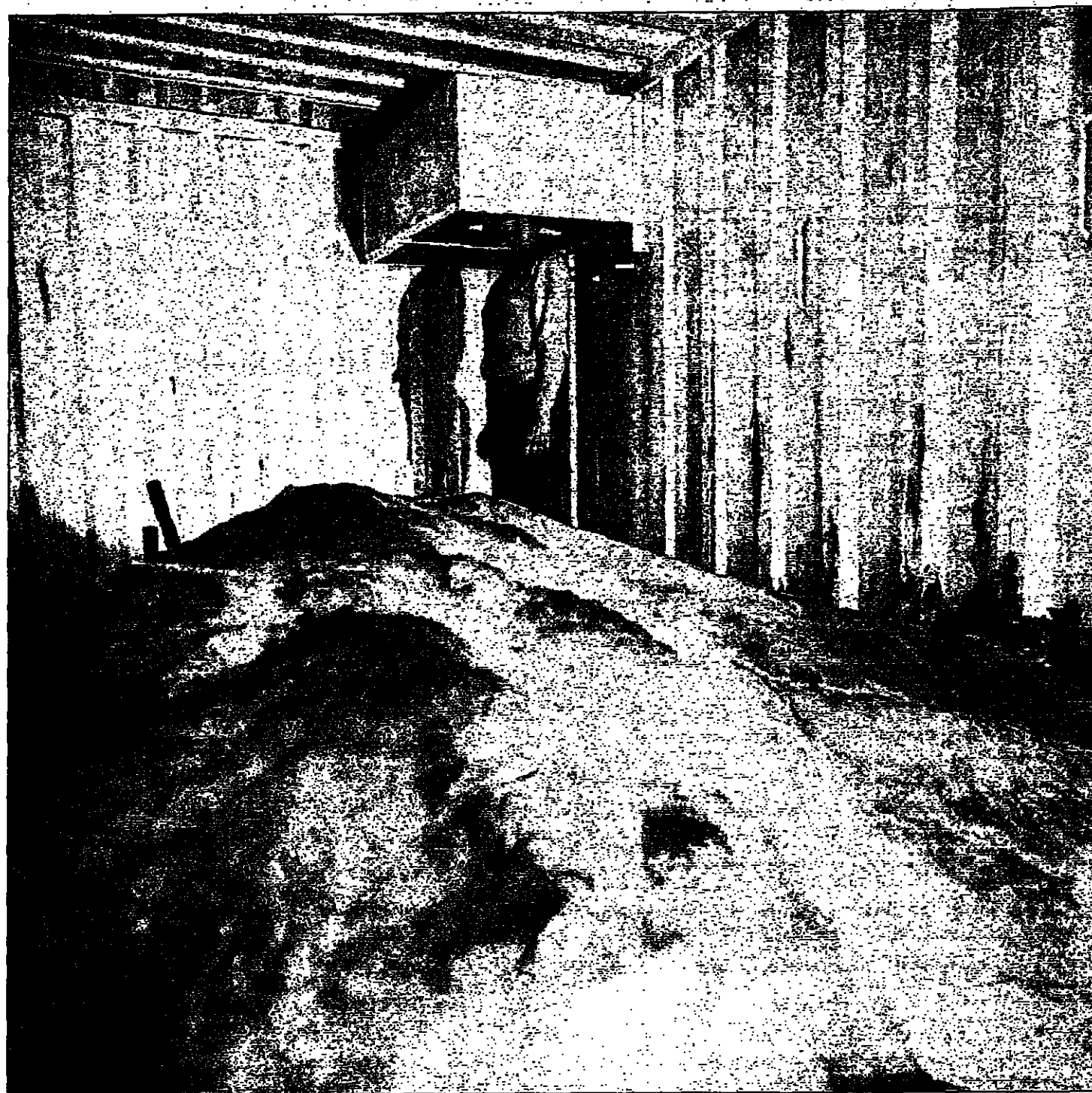
Respite is provided further along the tunnel, where Christine Hill has set up a "Volksboutique" in dingy shop premises. Describing herself ironically as an "Artist", this young American talks to anyone entering her store. Second-hand clothes are available, and she seems ready to provide a welcoming, sociable space scattered with sweets and balloons.

But Hill's shop seems dull compared with the gritty humour of Peter Friedl's video outside. Making aggressive sounds of slurring and beating, an enraged man in a subway attacks a cigarette machine. It refuses to function, and as he stalks away a begging bystander kicks him for refusing to give money.

These subterranean passageways are so uninviting that they will soon be closed down. The city centre — built in the 1950s, after British bombs flattened Kassel — now looks like a melancholy victim of the German recession. But nobody should be surprised that an event as expensive as *Documenta* is staged here. The overwhelming crowds it attracts throughout the summer ensure that the exhibition generates much-needed business.

The arch-dissenter Hans Haacke, however, provides a warning for anyone who views the marriage between art and commerce too naively. His garish poster, wrapped round an advertising pillar at the base of Kassel's local "Stairway Street", is dominated by an image of a Dada-like wooden puppet. Haacke has adorned his automaton with quotations from business leaders who relish the power of arts sponsorship. "It is a tool for public opinion," declares one, while Hilmar Kopper of Deutsche Bank bluntly declares that "whoever pays controls".

To her credit, the tough-minded Catherine David has produced a show fiercely opposed to such manipulation. But in her determination to offer something more than spectacular entertainment,



In *Resident Alien*, a metal container on a disused station. Sigalit Landau attempts to symbolise the plight of dispossessed peoples

she errs towards dryness. This is a cerebral *Documenta* that smacks of the schoolroom. David would rather provide a stern, educative experience than anything associated with the suspect enticements of pleasure.

She favours a documentary approach, repetitively stressing the harshness of inner-city life. And at the grand 18th-century Museum Fridericianum her stern priorities are made uncompromisingly clear. An immense space is set aside for Gerhard Richter, whose paintings could have given the 1997 *Documenta* a welcome shot of sensual vitality. But the walls are lined instead with Atlas, an archival work-in-progress containing all

the family snapshots, press cuttings, sketches and other material he uses as the source of his work. Memorable images lurk among the thousands of pictures assembled here, from concentration camp pictures and blurred pornography to intimate studies of Richter's family. But they lack the commanding presence of his large canvases.

The emphasis on photography, in room after room, soon becomes relentless. And David's insistence on setting new work in the context of the past often turns the exhibition into a history lesson. The great excitement of *Documenta*, at its provocative best, has always lain in a stimulating overview of new developments. Here, to my sur-

prise, I found generous spaces devoted to Walker Evans's subway portraits of the late 1930s, and Helen Levitt's camera studies of street life in East Harlem during the Second World War. David probably wants them to enhance our understanding of Jeff Wall's room. But Wall's new commitment to black-and-white photography needs no help from Evans or Levitt.

Richard Hamilton's contribution is impressive enough to stand on its own as well. Based on an identical reconstruction of the space at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, where this series of *Seven Rooms* was first shown, Hamilton's cool images offer a tour of his own house. They are computer-assisted paintings,

providing a lucid yet mysterious voyage of discovery. Few other British artists are included. The conceptual group Art & Language has never looked better, with a beguiling two-room display of brilliantly coloured panels each containing a double-page spread from a book. The fact that the panels take the form of furniture only adds to the unease.

On the whole, though, David ignores the new British art. Rather than including a dead animal by Damien Hirst, she opts for Gabriel Orozco's human skull covered with a finely drawn checkerboard of black squares. And among the least familiar names in the show, she scores a bull's-eye with a powerful

TRANQUILLITY is not, on the whole, a quality very highly prized in art today. Art is supposed to stimulate, to excite, to challenge, and quietists such as Morandi or Hammershoi tend to get shouted down. Fortunately this has never been so in China, where the Buddhist virtues of quietude, balance and reserve have never ceased to be venerated. The advantages of such an approach are demonstrated in Eskenazi's show of Chinese Buddhist Sculpture, dating from Eastern Wei (6th century) to Early Ming (14th-15th century).

Numerically it is a small show — only 16 pieces — though a couple of them, such as the headless Sui marble Buddha, are quite large. But it is the spirit which pervades the show that is really striking. It reflects a life of philosophical contemplation, far removed from worldly strife. If consolation is a legitimate function of art, one could hardly ask for a better place to find it.

10 Clifford Street, W1 (0171-635 5464): Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until July 12

Sara Rossberg is not only one of our leading representational artists, but her art has nearly always embodied narrative. In the six years since Rossberg had a London show, much has changed. The Rossberg of her new show is instantly recognisable, but the narrative content has been drained away. Virtually all that is left is a series of nudes against an almost abstract background, just about recognisable as a tiled floor or a bed with a crumpled duvet. The mainly pastel colours are applied in tiny dabs or dapples which suggest classic Pointillism. The results are unsettling, but curiously reassuring as well.

Julian Harnoll, 14 Masons Yard, SW1 (0171-839 3842): Mon-Fri 10am-12.30pm, 2.30-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until July 6

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

video film by the Trinidad-born, Ghent-based Johan Grimmonprez. Primarily reliant on archive footage of aeroplane hijacks throughout the world, he includes sequences so harrowing that they could never have been shown on British TV news. His mastery is incontestable, cutting between documentary shots, science-fiction films and his own reconstructions with the help of ironic music and spoken extracts based on Don DeLillo's wry novels. The whole work had a visceral impact, a sense of urgency and a wrenching emotional attack which so much of *Documenta* desperately lacked.

● The exhibition continues in Kassel (0249-0561 70720) until Sept 28

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Overstating the point

Saburo Teshigawara is not the first choreographer to be fascinated by air. Trisha Brown, Lucinda Childs and Rosemary Butcher have all made work that dances with an invisible partner. But the Japanese choreographer sees air as more than

DANCE

Teshigawara
Queen Elizabeth Hall

just an imagined physical presence. For him it is a metaphor for the elusiveness of reality.

The 90-minute work he brought to LIFT '97 last week, *I Was Real - Documents*, attempts to mould the air in much the same way as a sculptor moulds clay. This is no coincidence, for Teshigawara is a trained sculptor and the impulse to construct immutable objects is there in his choreography. The focused and methodical concentration of his movement language is also sculptural in its realisation, at times literally so when Teshigawara carves resonant images of stillness using the strong bodies of the dancers in his Karas company.

Teshigawara perceives the air in different guises. It can be



Saburo Teshigawara, an impressive figure on stage

oppressive and weighty, wrapping a cloak around the movement and lulling it into inert shapes. It can be invigorating and catalytic, generating speed and sinewy flexibility in the dancers. The air can even be turbulent, encouraging the dance into uninhibited bursts of frenetic activity.

The air is also alive with a wealth of evocative sounds (music compilation by Kei Miyata and Teshigawara): insects in the night, ringing brass calls, raucous, rhythmic drones. The dancers, too, make their own noise, cough-

ing, growling and screaming into the echoing wilderness. Over and over they unleash vocally as Teshigawara appears obsessed with the disturbances their amplified cries make as they travel through the air.

The staging is minimalist, something of a surprise from someone famous for the elaboration of his sets. The urge to populate the performing space with things is restricted to a few metal trolleys.

This leaves the choreography free to carry Teshigawara's message, and it is certainly imbued with whatever quality he is seeking to convey. Teshigawara himself is an impressive figure on stage, but his constant need to replay the creative process through the endless repetition of movement and sequence smacks of narcissistic self-indulgence. We get the point long before he is finished making it, and just when we think he will stop he makes it again.

As the title suggests, this is a work that invites us to probe further into metaphysical territory. Yet if Teshigawara really does want us to question the nature of reality, he would do well to remember that keeping the audience's attention must be the first priority.

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A DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU SURVEY

by Richard Wigmore

BRITISH record buyers first heard the new baritone sensation from Berlin on a series of Schubert recordings made with Gerald Moore in 1951. The spine-chilling performance of *Erk König* immediately marked out the 26-year-old as a singer of rare insight and dramatic flair. You can now get Fischer-Dieskau's early Schubert recordings with Moore in a three-disc EMI set (CDM 763559-2).

By the early 1960s Fischer-Dieskau was well on the way to becoming the most recorded singer of all time, and was given virtual carte blanche by Deutsche Grammophon in opera. His Wolfram in *Tannhäuser* under Knut Witsch (EMI) is surpassingly warm and mellifluous, and his Mandryka in Strauss's *Arabella* under Kelberth (DG) catches all the fervour, impulsiveness and idealism of "Mr Right". Finest among his Verdi roles are his Posa under Solti (Decca) and, especially, his Rigoletto with Kubelik (DG), where he captures the jester's paternal tenderness.

Forced at gunpoint to make just three choices, I would plump first for his EMI two-

disc set of Schubert songs with Moore, superlative singing and interpretation, with almost none of the verbal over-emphasis that can sometimes mar the baritone's Lieder performances (CMS 763 566-2); then a two-disc set, also from EMI, entitled *Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, the Opera Singer*, a collection of arias familiar and unfamiliar, with the voice caught in its glorious first ripeness (CMS 5 65621-2); and finally, a Mahler disc

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■ TOMORROW

Should Brunel's Great Western Railway be declared one of Britain's World Heritage Sites?

THEATRE: Stunning village of the damned; Ibsen tongue-tied

Outlook miserable and completely bracing

"The tag of beautiful losers attached to Radiohead since day one has disappeared. These are beautiful winners"

NICK KELLY

LUKE CLANCY

Having gathered a hemp sackful of bones, they head home to complete their task. This involves laying the skulls on the kitchen table and setting about them with wooden mallets. The animalistic ritual that follows sees dust and skull fragments flying as the gravedigger enjoys the final victory over his hated

Lost on a tour of babble

JEREMY KINGSTON

This is how Laukvik tiptoes on to the stage after the other two have established the show's quirky mood with a twittering violin and an an-

CHRIS PARKER

Given Gil's strong appeal to both feet and head (his latest album contains references not only to Emily Dickinson and Lao Tse but also to quantum physics) and, above all, his extraordinary charisma, it is difficult to resist the thought that he could become, even this late in his career, the next Marley.

Sambas by Marley's ghost

The extraordinary reaction Gil's performance elicited from a largely Brazilian audience belied its relative understatement. Unless you are Shirley Bassey, raising a large crowd to such a peak ofapture generally involves sustained badgering or constant reminders that the con-

He also asserted that he loved London but, since he lived here in the early 1970s after alienating the Brazilian Government, this also rang true.

Gilberto Gil
Barbican

why he incurred his rulers' displeasure at that time — his spearheading of the "Tropicalismo" movement, which opened up Brazilian popular music to everything from the Beatles to Chuck Berry — are precisely the source of his wide appeal today.

Although his openness to such influences was seen then as subversive by the Right and as an example of cultural

imperialism by the Left, such eclecticism is not only acceptable, but almost compulsory these days.

Accordingly, although he began his concert very much on "home" territory with a selection of characteristically thoughtful crooned meditations from his latest album, *Quanta*, he soon began adding more apparently extraneous elements to his musical stew.

Bob Marley's *Is This Love* and *Stir It Up* had the crowd on its feet within the first half-hour and from then on Gil

[illegible]

Mr Brown, read our lips: higher taxes

Anatole Kaletsky says Labour is wrong to stick to Tory limits

One of the most gratifying results of the last general election was the way it confounded the self-appointed oracles of the punditry — the pundits who claimed a direct rapport with the British people which offered them an insight not available to ordinary mortals who merely followed the ebbs and flows of the opinion polls.

These were the oracles who predicted, after canvassing their dinner-party companions and taxi drivers, that the people would feel their wallets bulging and re-elect John Major. That such predictions were refuted on May 1 was a victory not only for Labour, but also for common sense. By election day the pollsters had interviewed hundreds of thousands of ordinary people, selected carefully on a scientific statistical basis. If their conclusions had proved less accurate than a straw poll of taxi drivers, then all serious efforts at analysing public opinion would have to be set at naught.

Next week Gordon Brown will deliver the first Labour Budget for 18 years — and to judge by leaks over the weekend, he is already under pressure to modify his election promises to stick to the Tory limits on public spending and taxes.

And what have these public spending pressures to do with the accuracy of opinion polls? There are many arguments both for and against tax-financed public spending, but in Britain they are rarely heard. Whatever may be said for or against higher health spending (which is very low in Britain by international standards) or educational spending (which is quite high), all rational argument is drowned out by cynical *realpolitik*: the voters will not tolerate higher taxes. But what is the evidence for this?

Whenever the pollsters ask a cross-section of the public whether the Government should raise taxes and spend the money on health and education, the answer is "yes". According to the most detailed recent survey of this issue, the *British Social Attitudes Survey for 1996-97*, support for higher taxes to finance more spending on health, education and social benefits was 61 per cent in the 1996-97 survey, compared with only 32 per cent in 1983. Even when pollsters point out the extra tax that would have to be paid by the person questioned, the majority answer came back loud and clear — "please, Chancellor, raise our taxes and spend the money on health and education".

Politicians and analysts have always reacted to such findings with a shrug. People like to express altruistic sentiments to pollsters, but that tells us nothing about what they really feel — they simply lie to the pollsters. But why are the politicians so sure that all these answers are lies? Because the voters keep lying to the pollsters about both their altruism and their voting intentions. Whatever they say to the pollsters, they keep re-electing Tory governments

which promise to cut both taxes and spending. Ergo, the polls about tax and spending are false. QED.

But hang on a moment: both the main premises of this argument have just been knocked away. The voters did not re-elect the Tories — and they did not lie to the pollsters (or at least their lying was confined to the error of about 5 per cent). Why, then, do the chattering classes and the politicians (including the new Labour leadership) continue to ridicule all indications that public opinion favours more public spending, financed by higher tax?

As far as I can see there is only one remaining reason: Tony Blair won this election by promising not to raise taxes, and to do otherwise would be a fatal breach of trust. This argument is unconvincing. First, Mr Blair did not rule out raising taxes and public spending. All he promised was not to raise the rates of income tax and VAT.

On the spending side, Mr Brown said he would stick to the Tory spending limits in the first two financial years of the new Government. He gave no hints whatsoever about his intentions beyond April 1999.

In fact, both the Chancellor and the Prime Minister pointedly refused to give any promises on either taxes or public spending beyond the clearly defined commitments on tax rates and two-year spending targets. The very limited nature of these commitments was widely remarked by the media and attacked by the Tories. How, then, could anyone claim that an increase in taxes to fund public spending from 1999 onwards was a breach of trust?

The standard answer is that voters chose to interpret the narrow election commitments much more broadly. Voters assumed that there would be no increase in taxes or spending, even if no such promises were actually made. But where is the evidence for this? Certainly not in any objective analysis of public opinion. A survey conducted by Gallup in the two days after the election found no less than 86 per cent of voters believing that the new Government would raise taxes, with 20 per cent saying that taxes would go up "a lot", while 66 per cent thought they would rise "a little".

Given that the Liberal Democrats were absolutely explicit in their support for higher taxes, a total of 60 per cent of the electorate voted for parties that were identified with higher taxes — very similar to the numbers who have said in other polls that they generally favoured higher taxes and public spending.

Today's Labour leaders are children of the Thatcher-Reagan era. They cannot resist the conventional wisdom that people will always vote against higher taxes. Yet the election's message was loud and clear: voters have had enough of the private affluence and public squalor of the 1980s. A new balance must now be struck.



"DON'T WORRY, SON, I'LL GET YOU IN."

The heights of folly

Damages awards for sporting accidents carry their own risk

Bad things happen on mountains. Seven years ago on the Mont Blanc massif in the French Alps, a very bad thing happened to Gerry Hedley and his paid guide David Cuthbertson. The two climbers started before dawn, and were negotiating their second ice-face when the guide became concerned about a rock fall as the early sun melted the ice. The area is growing notoriously unpredictable as temperatures rise and the glaciers retreat.

Mr Cuthbertson made a fast decision, setting only a single ice-screw to anchor his partner as he traversed the slope towards a safer area. In the Alps, climbers say, you are forever compromising between technical security and speed, simply because your safety often depends on moving quickly out of the path of potential rock and ice falls. This time, the guide's decision did not pay off. A sheet of ice suddenly gave way, Mr Cuthbertson fell, and it was his pupil and partner who died as a result. As I said, bad things happen on mountains.

Years later, a different kind of bad thing has happened to Mr Cuthbertson in the High Court. He was sued for compensation on behalf of the six-year-old son of Gerald Hedley. After hearing the story of what happened up on the Tour Ronde seven years before, on Friday Mr Justice Dyson ruled against the guide and in favour of the child.

The judge spoke of "a serious mistake" and said that there had not been "overriding reasons" for not setting a second ice-anchor and getting a running belay. The orphan will get compensation; the insurers will pay. It is not my place to criticise a mother for pursuing such a case on her child's behalf, not in the present litigious age. Moreover, it is hard for anybody who is not a climber and was not on that mountain to judge properly, seven years after the event, just how hot the sun was, how fast the melt seemed to be, and how vital were the decisions made in those few minutes by an experienced man: a man, moreover, who was stretched by responsibility and effort to a level of heightened awareness which few of us ever reach. We were not there and we cannot tell.

But then, neither can the judge. In the ice-free setting of a court of law it is easy enough to rule that there were no "overriding circumstances" to excuse departure from a "standard procedure"; but those who get closer to mountains, such as Andy McNae, of the British Mountaineering Council, reject such comfortable simplicities.

"The fundamentals of climbing," says Mr McNae, "are personal judgment and personal responsibility." From the Scottish Mountaineering Council another climber, Kevin Howett, says more baldly that "quite often, there is no right decision". A woman Alpinist I rang at the weekend was even harsher. "I truly weep for the wife and child," she said, "but when you go climbing, you know perfectly well that if you can't take a joke you shouldn't have joined. You think I'm callous, don't you? I'm not. I'm realistic. When I have a family I'll say goodbye to the ice. It's not safe stuff."

These are very different voices. The court's is the voice of a society which likes everything to be somebody's fault, and expects somebody's insurer to pay up. Set against it is the voice of men and women who choose pastimes which are never entirely safe. Whether you find them in climbing, offshore sailing, steeplechasing, diving or skydiving, the voice is constant. For all their carbon-fibre helmets and survival-suits and webbing harnesses, these people are noticeably reluctant to apportion blame to those overtaken by disaster.

They know that sometimes you have to make hard, quick decisions and that your luck might run out. They reserve their anger for genuine negligence. If it is obvious that somebody has taken novices out on a culpably ill-found boat, neglected to maintain equipment, or led pupils up mountains in the wrong shoes, they are furious. They blacklist diving schools where the regulators are never serviced, and parachute clubs where packing is sloppy. But they do not condemn their peers for making wrong decisions when danger is moving fast. "Could have done anything," they mutter into their beer at

the club. "There, but for the grace of God."

Talking about the Hedley case at the weekend, those of us who know boats better than mountains tried to translate what happened into sailing terms: we imagined a knockdown caused by reefing a sail too late, and that we had delayed because we were running for shelter and worried about a fast tide turning.

Or it could be a novice swept from the cockpit because a squall hit just as he was re-anchoring his harness (a judge, seven years on, might be swayed by the fact that a few boats carry two straps per harness, so that nobody is even briefly disconnected).

Then I asked divers to imagine the same, and they had no trouble sketching out scenarios of blockage and tangle, where the avoidance of one danger might lead straight into another, and yet must be risked. They cited the incident in Falmouth last week when rapid decisions saved a diver's life.

When you sign up for one of these activities — or, more terrifying, when you sign your under-age son or daughter up — you generally have to fill in a disclaimer. My son the junior diver refers to it as "that form which says you don't mind dying". He clearly has a better understanding than some adults.

What is more, that understanding seems to concentrate his mind wonderfully on checking over his gear and that of his dive-buddy, asking questions at the dive briefing, backing out of excursions he considers beyond him, and studying the qualifications of the instructor with narrowed, suspicious eyes. I am always pleased to see that happening. Everybody knows, however, that the don't-mind-dying forms are legally worthless. You can still sue.

When that happens, it is of paramount importance that the courts tread carefully. Judges should allow a generous margin of respect for the guide or teacher's presumed profes-

sional judgment, and for the exigencies of the moment. They should err on the side of robustness, and remember that people who take up adventurous sports are in a very different position from cinema-goers or Saturday mall shoppers.

Caveat emptor: if you buy a dog it might bite you, if you buy an adventure you accept a risk.

Courts should be prepared at times to disappoint the bereaved or the injured, however blameless, rather than appear to demand that risk sports be conducted with a ritualistic, nannyish rulebook correctness which could in itself be dangerous.

Of course negligence must be punished — there was no excuse at all for what happened in the Lyme Bay canoe disaster. Of course minors need to be protected. But when rational adults sign up to follow a leader into a hostile environment, they accept the responsibility for choosing the right guide.

They should also accept that with the best will in the world there may be circumstances when nobody can save them. As the legendary singlehanded sailor Blondie Hasler used to say, setting out to sea yet again without a radio, "every herring must hang by its own tail".

Libby Purves

The Foreign Office has always seen Britain as a bridge between America and Europe, but under the Major Government it watched uneasily as President Clinton made overtures to Germany. It feared that Britain would be marginalised, while America forged closer links within the European Union. Yet as long as the Government was tearing itself apart over Europe, Whitehall had only limited room for manoeuvre.

Its crucial tactic was to pack our Washington Embassy with its brightest and best experts on Europe — starting with Sir John Kerr, the Ambassador, who was formerly the UK representative in Brussels. Sir John is returning to Britain at the end of the summer to become head of the Foreign Office. A hot tip to succeed him in Washington is Jeremy Greenstock, whose job as the Foreign Office political director involves him heavily in Europe.

Meanwhile, Stephen Wright, former director of European Union affairs, has become number two in Washington. Anthony Carty and John Sawers, political counsellors at the embassy, have both had wide experience of dealing with Europe — Carty as head of the Foreign Office EU department. With the key posts in Washington held by people with an intimate knowledge of the European Union, all the Foreign Office could do was wait.

Inside Whitehall there were growing fears that extreme Eurosceptics failed to appreciate that cutting our ties with the EU would mean the end to the "special relationship" with America. More to the point, the Americans themselves made their attitude quite clear. Robert Hunter, the US Ambassador to NATO, told me: "We Americans like to see our British friends playing a very active role in Europe. That's where the future lies. Clinging to us is wonderful but it's not going to be sufficient. The fact of power, the facts of economics, are that an effective Britain is a Britain firmly and finally engaged in Europe."

The message was clear, yet Whitehall doubted whether some British politicians had understood. In April, just before the general election, one permanent secretary remarked glumly: "My personal view is that there is no way forward for Britain if we follow a truly Eurosceptical line. It's a Little England policy. If that's what people really want, then OK — but do they understand the consequences?"

Tory Eurosceptics might retort that most British mandarins always were Europhiles, if not closet federalists. Yet if that was ever true, it isn't now. Whitehall would indeed view with grave misgivings the prospect of Britain pulling out of the EU altogether, but some of the sharpest criticism of the European Commission can be heard inside the Foreign Office itself — particularly among those who have had close dealings with Brussels bureaucrats.

Now officials find their view very much closer to Tony Blair's tender, but-tough approach — positive on the fundamental principle, but as headline as they come on specifics. It was Mr Blair's uncompromising stand on defence at Amsterdam — backing NATO and rejecting any moves to give the Eurocrats greater influence — that earned him such a warm welcome from the Americans in Denver.

The stage is now set for Britain to act as linkman between America and Europe. This pivotal role has long been a goal for the Foreign Office. Traditionally, it has been one of the main planks of Conservative foreign policy, too. As our men in Washington stand poised to strengthen and exploit the resurgence of British influence on both sides of the Atlantic, the irony is that even tough Eurosceptics such as Michael Howard, the new Shadow Foreign Secretary, may find it hard to challenge the new bridge-building diplomacy.

Defending our seat at top table

Sue Cameron says

Denver seals a new

special relationship

A brash boom town in the American Rockies may seem an unlikely source of salvation for Whitehall civil servants. But for some of Britain's most senior officials last weekend's summit of world leaders in Denver, Colorado, marked the end of a nightmare.

The vision that haunted Whitehall's top people was of a Britain stripped of the last trappings of Great Power status, isolated not just from the rest of Europe, but from America too.

On the eve of the election, the European Commissioner, Yves Thibault de Silguy spoke of how, by early next century, the G7 summit of industrialised nations might be superseded by meetings of a G3 made up of America, Japan and the European Union. Britain, having turned her back on the EU, would be excluded. It was the scenario that Whitehall dreaded.

Now the Denver summit has restored the old warmth between the UK and America and put such fears to rest. The renewal has been encouraged by a good personal relationship that has developed between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, and by Britain's tough stance on European defence in Amsterdam. It has also been underpinned by the Foreign Office quietly following its own private agenda.

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Love match

FROM all the hubbub surrounding Tim Henman at Wimbledon yesterday emerged the news that he and his girlfriend Lucy Heald will be moving in together. This is fast work from Henman, 22, and Heald, 23, who started stepping out together only at the very end of last year.

Word of the impending change in living arrangements was spreading fast among the various agents and television people at Wimbledon whose world Miss

Heald inhabits. She produces tennis programmes for the television arm of Henman's powerful sports agency IMG.

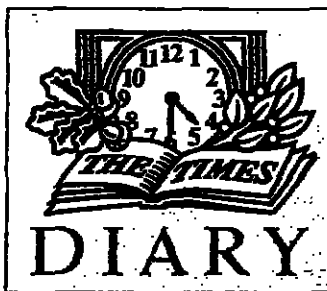
Despite the numerous pressures on their friendship, so far it seems to have gone as smoothly as a Henman groundstroke. Miss Heald can often be seen bolting from Henman's Chiswick flat and the pair are said by all who know them to be heartbreakingly in love. Living in different places takes yet more minutes out of the little time they have together, so it makes sense to merge.

She was not watching Henman's victory over Daniel Nestor yesterday but can be expected, should her man reach the second week of the tournament, to be striking suitably concerned poses from the players' family box. Then, presumably, back to the shared home for tea and aching muscles.

● *Sighs of relief echoed round Wimbledon yesterday where rain hindered progress on the first day. Sir Cliff Richard, who astonished everybody last year when he sang on Centre Court to entertain the crowds during a downpour, promised that there would be no repeat*



Courting: Tim and Lucy



this year. He explained that it would detract from the magic of last year's performance.

Style counsel

IN choosing his new private secretary, William Hague, the Tory leader, has delved into the wreckage wreaked by mad cows, George Osborne, 26, was until the general election special adviser to Douglas Hogg, a job he performed with the sang-froid to be expected from the only man in high Tory circles, other than Lord Strathclyde, to wear Gucci to work.

With his obvious sense of style, he might care to do something about William Hague's suits. As many Tories are pointing out, Hague's double-breasted jackets, when buttoned up, as they most often are, fit rather too closely round

his rear, leaving a tight, uncomfortable feeling in the observer.

Stone-work

MUSTIQUE'S well-heeled holidaymakers are in despair. For the first time in eight years, Mick Jagger's six-bedroom villa on the north face of the island has been withdrawn from the summer-rentals market. Since 1989, Jagger's Japanese-style home has been available to rent through a London agent for £5,500 a week. It comes



"But greenhouse gases are my only pleasure in life"

with a butler, a cook, a swimming pool, a Suzuki jeep and neighbours such as Princess Margaret.

Because of extensive building works, however, this year the house will be uninhabitable throughout the peak season. Luckily this will make only a small dent in the Jagger household's spending fund.

"We hope the works will be complete by September," a Mustique travel agent tells me, "but our island builders are rather unpredictable." Winter bookings are already being taken, but potential occupants of the souped-up villa are being carefully vetted. "We have decided not to rent to anyone involved in the media," says the agent. "The Jaggers are a very private family."

● *Privacy is proving a problem in the starkly minimalist London home of Chris Lowe, one half of the pop duo The Pet Shop Boys. He has eschewed every interior accessory, including doors. Lowe's shy friends, however, have persuaded him to screen off the lavatory. Backstage at the Savoy Theatre, he says: "I've now got the same kind of toilet you get in McDonald's."*

In the wings

LIFE as a former Merchant Ivory pin-up can be hard, as Sam West

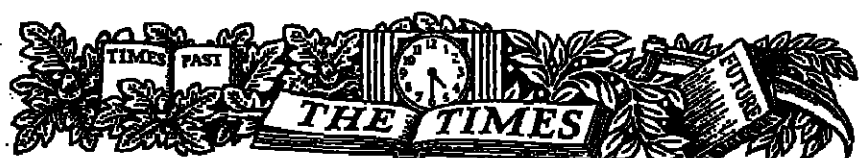


Fickle fame: Sam West

the actor son of Timothy West and Fionnula Scallan, has discovered. A few years ago he was everywhere, not least in the film adaptations of *Carrington* and *Howards End*. Now, however, the work has dried up and he is off to America, to New Hampshire, to be a drama teacher.

Idling at the Alfred Dunhill Queen's Cup polo final, he said that many of the parts he was auditioning for were going to people five years younger than himself. Let us hope that his American sojourn will be short-lived: his is the sort of straight-up-and-down talent we need more of.

P.H.S



WHERE CLINTON QUAILS

On climate change, there is no American leadership

When the world's most like-minded and most powerful club cannot agree on policies that would benefit both them and the world, they can hardly expect the inherently unwieldy forum of a United Nations conference to do better. The failure at Denver to set targets for reducing the West's emissions of the "greenhouse" gases that contribute to global warming has soured the prospects for this week's global environmental stocktaking, five years after the Rio "Earth Summit". America, which with 4 per cent of the world's people accounts for a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions, refused to play ball. Reducing these would be in America's own interest: but Bill Clinton's zeal for world leadership apparently stops short of taking on powerful domestic lobbies.

The chances of solid results in New York were already poor. The political atmosphere at the UN is a good deal more polluted than was the rarefied air of Denver. For that Rio was much to blame. Instead of setting sensible priorities, the Rio "action plan" was a rag-bag that conflated the indisputably urgent with the marginally desirable, and the price tag of \$125 billion a year in extra Western aid was unrealistic and diverted attention from the common environmental interest.

Before Rio, environmental diplomacy was making modest but real progress. Since then, the tone of international debate has been so stridently unproductive that even if the world's leading nations had brought a set of green commandments inscribed in tablets of stone down to Turtle Bay, they might well have been told to go away and come back with a wad of blank cheques. That does not alter the responsibility of the West, which produces the bulk of industrial emissions, to set exemplary standards.

Target-setting is a UN disease, but for greenhouse gas emissions, the case for them is unusually strong. Curbs cost money, so countries tend to be reluctant to act unless their main competitors are similarly bound.

The climate change convention was one of the few really important results of Rio, a green light in a murky world. Britain will meet the commitment then made by the

West to stabilise emissions at 1990 levels by 2000 and Tony Blair now wants agreement to Britain's much more ambitious goal of actually reducing them, by 20 per cent within 20 years. The US, which relied on the voluntary approach, will fall 13 per cent short of the 2000 target. Two years ago, the Clinton Administration accepted the principle of binding limits. But at Denver, beyond opposing the British plan as too ambitious, it refused to be specific.

So far, the damage done at Denver is more psychological than actual. The deadline that matters is not this meeting in New York, but the treaty revision conference in Kyoto at the end of this year. Delay beyond that point would be perilous. By 2005 the developing countries, whose emissions are rising fast, must join the regime if disaster is to be averted. Hostile US senators are already insisting that the West must not give rapidly industrialising, seriously polluting, countries such as India and China a free ride. They have a point. On present trends, by 2020 the increase alone in China's CO₂ emissions could exceed the entire current output of the OECD industrialised countries. But saying no is not enough.

The greening of the planet is not a favour the poor do the rich in return for cash: the poor suffer the most from polluted water, degraded farmland and desertification, just as they have fewer defences against global warming. Many steps they could take would even save money. But others are expensive. The West has technologies that could help the rich to leapfrog the "smokestack" phase the rich went through and an obvious interest in poor countries avoiding the worst environmental pitfalls of economic growth.

Other trade-offs are possible. The more countries have already done, the more costly further cuts are. Climate knows no boundaries, so the world could gain if rich nations paid for cuts in poor countries' emissions, which would be cheaper, crediting the reductions against their own emission quotas. But negotiations can only get tougher. If such bargains are to be struck, courageous precedents must be set by the West, now.

CREDIT SQUEEZE

The clearing banks are living on borrowed time

If Soames Forsyte were to return to the City of London today, he could walk into splendid marble floored banking halls and gain the instant impression that his industry was still as he left it. He would be mistaken. For while the buildings are listed as part of the national heritage, the banking industry is going through demolition and reconstruction on a scale which John Galsworthy's creation could never have envisaged.

City rumour, and that is the stuff on which the Square Mile feeds most voraciously, currently has it that the sledgehammer is hovering over National Westminster Bank. Its pillared Louthbury headquarters exudes Victorian solidity, but NatWest has just been embarrassed by a £77 million loss on trading in the breed of fancy paper instruments which bright young men like Nick Leeson purport to understand. While NatWest's problem would barely register on the Baring scale, it is indicative of a deeper difficulty within the bank, one which is also affecting its rival Barclays.

The pair have both opted to venture into investment banking, a sophisticated and dangerous world where Americans excel but British organisations seem to struggle. The urge to explore beyond their established business was understandable, even essential. When the supermarket doubles up as a finance house and building societies demutualise into banks that rain cash upon investors, inaction may presage death. Already the clearing banks that once played such a dominant role in our towns have had to retrench. Many of their former premises have been stripped of their dignity as well as their tellers to re-emerge as theme pubs.

Where once four major UK banks dictated the shape of financial services in Britain, they must now adjust to a new era where the stock market values the recently floated Halifax at £19 billion while it puts a price tag of less than £13 billion on NatWest. Becoming an international investment bank seemed a possible route forward for NatWest and Barclays but neither is currently looking like a winner in this hugely competitive industry, which combines commercial banking with corporate deal-doing, share-broking and all imaginable aspects of financial trading.

They have paid huge sums to acquire the firms which, theoretically, should have enabled them to join the big league banks. But while the businesses they bought made a reasonable living in the City in the days before Big Bang, they have not found it easy adjusting to the harsh new world. The American firms which have found London an hospitable base for furthering their global ambitions believe that the last vestiges of the old school tie may be strangling British efforts to compete. In the days when London's merchant banks managed to combine shrewd financial brains with the aura of gentlemen's clubs, Eton proved a fine source of talent.

But success for an international investment bank depends on one skill above all else. There is no benefit to be had from the most skilled corporate financiers, best equities analysts or wondrously clairvoyant bond traders for a house which is lacking in customers. Selling is the all-important ingredient. And in corners of the City, that remains an activity best left to others.

UNDER A CLOUD

The rain deserves a sporting chance

It will be a source of some disappointment to patriots and sports lovers that yesterday's play at Wimbledon and the Test match was not completely rained off. If there is one pleasure greater, and certainly more familiar, than seeing an Australian ball lofted over the slips' outstretched hands and beyond the boundary it is seeing an English cloud lowering over the Lord's manicured square and drenching it thoroughly.

The combination of non-stop sunshine and non-stop victories is a rare one, and too much euphoria can lead to disorientation and, subsequently, depression as it becomes clear that the artificial "high" created by a run of England triumphs can never be recaptured. It is more comfortable for the British lover of sports to become gently intoxicated with the delicate cocktail of anticipation, reminiscence and warm beer which sustains the spectator while the heavens pour as they did last week.

The national character may be a fusion of Norman, Saxon and Celt, it could be the product of parliamentary government, it may be influenced by island geography but, above all, it is the result of rain. A stoical acceptance of steady precipitation helped the yeoman archers to victory at Agincourt and ensured that Tommy Atkins stood firm at Ypres while allies wilted in the mud. This baptism of water not only imbues the

British with a resilient spirit, it nourishes the imagination. Events which, in their majestic tedium, would test the patience of Job, or even a fan of Queen of the South, can be saved by the rain. From rained-off fetes for worthy causes to washed-out weddings for unworthy relations, inclement weather provides a focus for resentment, a conversation piece for ill-matched guests and an excuse for all other deficiencies. Rain, like adultery, provides an outlet for anger which masks deeper failings.

It is, however, at the sports ground that rain is most welcome. Just as the Russian Army's greatest commanders are Generals January and December so Britain owes much of its sporting success to summer showers. At Wimbledon, every match rained off allows a British player to say he survived beyond the tournament's first day.

For spectators, even more than sportsmen, rain is an ally. An afternoon at Lord's spent trading Wisden averages while the heavens and the hamper open up is, usually, richer entertainment than watching any actual team drive down their own averages. At Ascot, rain allows those unconcerned with fashion to concentrate on the real sport, in the White's Club tent, where a flickering TV will show what all true aficionados of sport want — two men chatting about Denis Compton while the tarpaulins grow sodden.

Press freedom and responsibility

From Mr David L. Astor, CH, and Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, We cannot agree with suggestions (letters, June 13 and 18) that, by restricting the ambit of questioning at a recent press briefing (report, June 7), the Lord Chancellor had displayed a threat to press freedom. Lord Irvine of Lairg's protestation against the charge (letter, June 14) is well founded: his track record on freedom of information belies any such accusation.

Openness and frankness on the part of government (which the Lord Chancellor expressly espouses in his letter) will undoubtedly improve the relationship between government and the media, to the benefit of public understanding and knowledge of public affairs. The regulatory system governing the relationship of the newspaper industry with its reading public deserves the new Government's prompt attention, however.

The excellent report in 1993 of the Select Committee on National Heritage recommended the enlargement and extension beyond the sole self-regulatory body, the Press Complaints Commission. That report, together with the then Lord Chancellor's consultation paper (also in 1993) foreshadowing a statutory right of privacy, produced a lame and non-committal response in 1995 from the last administration.

The collapse of Jonathan Aitken's libel action against Granada TV and *The Guardian*, together with the result of the marathon case brought by McDonald's against two unrepresented defendants (reports, June 20), serve only to underline the need for reform of the defamation laws, alongside the introduction of a privacy law and the projected freedom of information legislation.

Can we now hope for — even dare to expect — legislation which will effectively combine press freedom and editorial/journalistic responsibility?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. ASTOR,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
24 St Ann's Terrace, NW8,
June 20.

Aitken's fall

From Mr Alan Blyth

Sir, Your leading article, "Sound of truth" (June 21), is apt and just. It is in marked contrast to the conduct of Tories who appeared in the media on Friday in an attempt to exonerate their former colleague, suggesting he was a tragic figure who had suffered enough and ought now to be left alone.

Why, just because he is a former minister, should he be treated in a different manner from a so-called ordinary citizen? It seems that even after their debilitating defeat, caused partly by sleaze, some Tories remain arrogant and unrepentant. This is not the way to regain public confidence.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BLYTH,
22 Shilling Street, Lavenham, Suffolk,
June 21.

From Mr Laurence T. Roach

Sir, As a former head of the Discipline Office for the Metropolitan Police I can tell you that had Jonathan Aitken been a serving police officer, however senior, rather than a minister of the Crown, he would have been suspended when the allegations against him were first lodged. That action would have been taken in the public interest and to protect the reputation of the service.

It is astonishing that so serious an allegation of misconduct made by a national newspaper received so little credence by politicians and the mandarins who support and advise them. Mr Aitken's denials seem simply to have been accepted. No police investigating officer would have been allowed to treat even a trivial complaint in so cavalier a fashion.

The roots of sleaze in our political life go much deeper than this case. Both the Prime Minister and Mr Hague could do much worse than look to the police for advice on how to deal with the investigation of corruption and misconduct in our public life.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. ROACH,
43 Ripon Way,
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire,
June 22.

From Mr Colin Riegels

Sir, The public are usually not slow to castigate the press for untrue stories or unwarranted intrusions into the private lives of public figures. Perhaps today is a day to toast the fourth estate.

The Guardian has now twice printed stories regarding questionable conduct of Members of Parliament twice it has been used for libel, and twice it has stood its ground and been vindicated.

Perhaps there is much to be said for press self-regulation after all.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN RIEGELS,
13 Alan Bullock Close, Oxford.
colin_riegels@compuserve.com
June 21.

Business letters, page 31

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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'Self-interest' in the legal profession

From Mr Charles W. Plant

Sir, Adrian Zuckerman ("Keeping the Woolf from the door", June 16) is wide of the mark in suggesting that self-interest motivates the legal profession into opposition to Lord Woolf's proposals for the reform of civil procedure. Many members of the profession enthusiastically support them.

Our adversarial culture encourages settlement. Ninety-five per cent of cases never get to trial. Litigation lawyers recognise that it is their primary function to resolve disputes, and I know of no evidence to support the proposition that the litigation process is deliberately protracted to generate fees.

Practitioners, whether in the City of London or in the country, will see Lord Woolf's proposals as an opportunity to build practices rather than as a threat to them. When conditional fees are extended from personal injury to other substantial areas of work on fast-track cases, a party will be able to limit his costs liability to his own lawyers through conditional fees and to the other side through the Woolf proposals.

The significant improvement in access to justice which this will bring about will mean an expansion of work for lawyers. Commercial practitioners know full well that the removal of the excesses in the current system will make England a more attractive venue for international litigation.

It is essential to the maintenance of London's position as a major financial centre that it should offer an efficient and cost-effective dispute resolution service. The interests of litigation lawyers and their clients coincide in supporting Lord Woolf's proposals, and the legal profession will readily welcome and adapt to the changes required of it.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES W. PLANT
(Litigation partner),
Herbert Smith (solicitors),
Exchange House,
Primrose Street, EC2,
June 16.

From Mr Michael Kent, QC

Sir, The sub-heading to Adrian Zuckerman's article, "Lawyers have a strong interest in delay — they are paid by the hour", is misconceived. Successful litigation lawyers are too busy to devote unnecessary time to one case at the expense of others; those who are unsuccessful are criticised by the courts (and by Lord Woolf in *Access to Justice*) for letting cases "go to sleep" — that is, spending too few hours on them. Hence the need for

case management.

Contrary to Mr Zuckerman's assertion that "the legal profession objected vehemently" to Lord Woolf's proposals, the Law Society and the Bar Council welcomed both his interim and final recommendations. It is, though, only a comforting illusion to suppose that the vital issue of restoring a proper balance between costs and the amount at stake can be resolved by pruning some unquantifiable hours unnecessarily incurred.

Litigation costs have increased because over the years the courts have accepted and adopted new (and often more expensive) techniques for achieving a more precise and fair disposal of disputes. Expert witnesses are now deployed to assist, for example, in the assessment of categories of damages which were simply not awarded 30 years ago.

Lawyers, like doctors, have added to costs by devising new techniques. But are litigants prepared to go back to a cheaper but more rough and ready (and therefore often unfair) adjudication of their disputes?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KENT,
2 Crown Office Row, Temple, EC4,
June 17.

From Mr H. W. M. Arber

Sir, In his tirade against the legal profession, Adrian Zuckerman wrongly suggests that the dramatic fall in the cost of buying and selling houses has resulted from the abolition of the solicitors' monopoly over conveyancing. In fact it has resulted purely and simply from competition between firms of solicitors.

The process started with the abolition of scale fees by the Heath Government and gathered pace with the introduction of new technology and working methods into solicitors' offices. Austin Mitchell's legislation in 1983 made no significant difference. Very few non-solicitor conveyancing firms exist and those that do are normally staffed by former solicitors' clerks, who would have been doing the work anyway.

Instead of being subjected to snide comments from academics, solicitors in England and Wales should rather be congratulated on their ability to operate a system of house buying and selling which is dramatically cheaper than in all other comparable countries, including Scotland.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. M. ARBER,
Bower & Bailey (solicitors),
35 High Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire,
June 17.

Birthday honours

From Mr Christopher Kingston

Sir, I note today (earlier editions) the results of the survey of "opinion leaders" about potential reform of the honours system. I wonder, with up to 18 per cent having no opinion on certain questions, are the right people being surveyed?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER KINGSTON,
49 Sandymount Avenue, Dublin 4,
June 14.

From Mr P. E. L. Fellowes

Sir, The fact that the wife of a peer or knight is styled Lady (report, June 14) owes much to the long-held, though of course mistaken, view that the wife was in some sense the chattel of the husband, and that what affected him must necessarily affect her in some similar manner.

Today's politically correct solution must surely be, not that the husband of a newly created peer or Dame should receive a title, but that the wife of a peer or knight should simply remain "Mrs". And who would be happy with that?

Yours faithfully,
PEREGRINE FELLOWES,
The Court,
Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire,
June 14.

From Mr John S. Faulder

Sir, It is odd that, in the final month before the severance in the most complete manner yet seen of six million people from what was the British Empire, one should learn of the appointment of over a thousand people to the Order of the British Empire.

Yours etc,
JOHN FAULDER,
Flat 1, 27 Marloes Road, W8,
June 16.

In India and was always upset by claims upon him by India and Nepal.

His autobiography in 1955 settled the question of who stepped on the summit first, but climbers roped together are interdependent and consider they move together. Tenzing attended a number of reunions of the 1953 party over 30 years. I visited him in Darjeeling and met him in Tibet.

The interviews of me in this programme were given in 1993 in answer to questions which had nothing to do with "reputations"; this programme I consider a pastiche, seeming to show division where none existed.

Yours etc,
GEORGE LOWE
(Member 1953 Everest expedition),
Lowcroft,
Plains Lane,
Blackbrook, Belper, Derbyshire,
June 22.

Giants of musical theatre in accord

From Sir Cameron Mackintosh

Sir, Your front page puff, "Mackintosh claws Webber", gave what I regard as a misleading impression of my interview with Richard Morrison on the current state of the musical theatre ("My shows are fine, Andrew", Arts, June 20).

Far from attacking Andrew Lloyd Webber personally my comments on the running of his company, which were correctly reported by Richard Morrison, were strictly about the management of the Really Useful Group (RUG) in the past — particularly in relation to *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, the two shows Andrew and I created together long before anyone of his recent management was employed at the RUG.

Obviously Andrew has his own concerns, which is why I am delighted that he has once again been given control of his company and is actively making it as personal and creative a unit as it was when he started it.

Having had to make changes to one of my own productions recently, *Martin Guerre*, I appreciate the difficult and courageous decisions he had to make in deciding to do more work on *Whistle Down the Wind*, particularly as it was selling out in Washington during its pre-Broadway try-out.

I have no doubt that Andrew's tenacity and talents will bring *Whistle* to a triumphant conclusion when it opens in London next year and I very much hope he'll let me invest in it! Whether he does or not, he continues to have both my friendship and support. There simply wouldn't be a modern musical theatre without him and he will be at the forefront of its future for decades to come.

Yours etc,
CAMERON MACKINTOSH,
1 Bedford Square, WC1,
June 22.

Transatlantic flight

From Mr Christopher Joubert

Sir, On June 14/15, 1919, Alcock and Brown were the first to fly the Atlantic non-stop. The anniversary was not recorded in your anniversaries section on Saturday.

Today's paper includes a supplement, "Lindbergh's legacy", with headlines on the first and second pages referring to 70 years of transatlantic flight and "Seventy years ago, the first solo transatlantic flight changed the course of history".

Thus is history rewritten.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JOUBERT,
48 Haydon Park Road,
Wimbledon, SW19,
100556.1206@compuserve.com
June 16.

From Mr Allan D. Mitchell

Sir, I should like to reassure your readers on one point in your interesting supplement "Lindbergh's legacy". The absence of radar covering the Atlantic most certainly does not mean that "there is no such thing as air traffic control".

All commercial transatlantic flights are subject to air traffic control clearance to ensure adequate separation from one another.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN D. MITCHELL
(Air traffic controller,
Prestwick Oceanic Control Centre),
26 Abbots Way, Ayr,
June 16.

Final frontier

From Dr Howard Sergeant

Sir, Why all this song and dance about Britain maintaining her border controls within the EU (report, June 18)? What most of us want is to be able to travel round Europe without let, hindrance or passport.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD SERGEANT,
20 Well Walk, NW3,
June 18.

Self-assessment

From the Reverend C. J. E. Lefroy

Sir, I have just received a polite letter from the tax examiner informing me that he found no mistakes in my script. This was preceded by a cheque for my overpayment, all within 11 weeks of the end of the tax year. I feel again as I once did on being awarded a scholarship.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. E. LEFROY,
12 Rodmill Drive,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
June 16.

Knockout box

From Mr I. M. Adams-Cairns

Sir, Would not programmes about sleeping disorders be more appropriately scheduled in the small hours?

At 9pm last night my wife, who suffers no such problems, sat down to watch *Insomnia* (Channel 4). Five minutes later, she was sound asleep.

Yours faithfully,
I. M. ADAMS-CAIRNS,
Gorse Cottage,
Oxted Green,
Milford, Godalming, Surrey,
June 17.

OBITUARIES

Paul Reade, composer, died from cancer on June 7 aged 54. He was born on January 10, 1943.

Paul Reade was a versatile composer whose television theme tunes and incidental music brought pleasure to millions who may never have known his name. His credits covered a whole range of popular programmes, ranging from the children's favourite *Play School* to literary adaptations such as *Jane Eyre*.

His television work showed both technical mastery and a flair for conveying character, atmosphere and drama, qualities which were equally evident in his choral works, stage works for children, and highly effective writing for the ballet.

His more abstract orchestral and instrumental music, accessible yet challenging, revealed a fluent, confident and still evolving talent. His premature death has robbed the musical world of a composer who was without doubt reaching the zenith of his creative life and had much more to give.

Paul Geoffrey Reade was born in Liverpool. His mother was a well-known breeder of English setters,

but it was his father's piano playing at home which provided the earliest inspiration and set him on a career which was to flourish in many branches of the musical profession.

From 1962 to 1965 he studied piano with Alan Richardson at the Royal Academy of Music, and subsequently went to the London Opera Centre. After touring Britain as the pianist for Opera for All, he joined the English National Opera as a répétiteur when it moved from Sadler's Wells to the Coliseum.

With a young family to support, he welcomed the security offered by the job of pianist on the BBC Television children's programme *Play School* in the late 1960s, and it was this position that sowed the seeds for much of the rest of his career, giving him a special feel for music composed for young people. He wrote more than eighty songs for *Play School*, as well as its popular title music.

Other music for children and young people included works for narrator and orchestra such as *The Midas Touch* and *Cinderella*, performed at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, and subsequently broadcast by the BBC Concert Orchestra with Michael Hordern and Nigel Hawthorne as narrators. Reade's children's opera *David*

and *Goliath* was first performed in 1975: revived by Stephen Lawless, it was one of the highlights of the 1985 Buxton Festival. His songs and music for cartoon series on children's television — *Crystal Tipps* and *Alistair, Ludwig and The Flumps*, and more recently *AlphaBeta Castle* and *Mortimer and Arabel* — have been enjoyed by children all over the world.

Reade's work for television also included writing the theme tunes to programmes such as *The Antiques Roadshow* and music for the BBC's *Victorian Kitchen Garden* series, for which he won the 1990 Ivor Novello Award for Best Television Drama. In the field of television drama, such classic serials as *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Jane Eyre* showed Reade's happy knack of finding just the right music to embody the spirit of a programme; all became enormously popular.

Reade's gifts were nowhere more evident than in his work for the ballet. *Hobson's Choice*, his first ballet score for David Bintley and the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, is a triumphant example of what can be achieved with the perfect collaboration between a master choreographer and an exceptional musician. An instant success with the public,

it remains a treasure in the repertoire of what has become the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

This was followed by *Byron* for Ballet West Utah, recorded for BBC Radio 3, and last year *Far from the Madding Crowd* — another collaboration with David Bintley and Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Throughout his career Reade also found time and inspiration to work on chamber, orchestral and choral works. His style, influenced partly by the English pastoral tradition, but just as strongly by the turn of the century French Impressionists, is exemplified by works such as the Saxophone Quartet: the solo oboe suite *Aspects of a Landscape*, written as a response to Blythburgh Church and the Suffolk coastline; and the oboe trio *Luckbarrow Dances*. This last was inspired by the ancient burial mounds on Exmoor where he retreated from London to work in his isolated country cottage with a barn converted into a composer's studio.

An invitation to Moura Lympany's *Raspague Festival* with the Manchester Camerata in the early 1980s led to a long association with the Southern Pyrenees, and compositions such as the song cycles for the late Elizabeth

Harwood, including the *Chants du Roussillon*. The Camerata also commissioned Reade's *Flute Concerto*, a work of great beauty and deep personal commitment.

Reade's works are tonal, melodic, accessible, yet emotionally telling and frequently challenging. Within a musical language that was so immediately approachable he could always find new sounds, colours and melodies to delight the listener, and whatever he wrote always had the unmistakable Reade hallmarks of economy, directness, freshness and originality. There were many works still in progress, left unfinished, which show his lively, wide-ranging musical interests: a harmonica concerto for Larry Adler and a bassoon concerto for Laurence Perkins whose first movement he managed to play through himself the day before he died.

In addition, discussions were taking place for further collaborations with David Bintley for more full-length ballet scores.

Paul Reade married, first, Mary Clark in 1965; they were divorced in 1985.

He is survived by his second wife, the flautist Philippa Davies, and by the son and daughter of his first marriage.



JOE EDWARDS

Joe Edwards, CBE, Managing Director of the British Motor Corporation, 1966-68, died at Poole, Dorset, on June 12 aged 88. He was born on July 5, 1908.

JOE EDWARDS was one of longest serving leaders of the British car industry in the turbulent middle years of the century. He brought a cheerful, "press-on" approach to production efficiency, and tried to develop good industrial relations, but could not save the motor industry from itself.

Born and educated in Great Yarmouth, Joseph Robert Edwards joined the Austin Motor Company at Longbridge, Birmingham, at the age of 19 in 1928. After a brief diversion to Hercules Cycles in 1939, he rejoined Austin in 1941, moving steadily up the ladder to become general works manager in 1951.

During the war, in addition to his work at Longbridge on Austin's varied military equipment, Edwards was closely involved in setting up production by Austin Motors of 300 Hurricane fighters, of which 200 were shipped to Russia.

By 1954, he was works director, and in the following year he was appointed director of manufacturing for the British Motor Corporation (BMC), formed from the Morris and Austin companies. An outstanding production engineer, he had by 1966 been made managing director of a company that owned the



badges of a great cross-section of the prewar industry.

In 1956, Edwards had added to his responsibilities the powerful Cowley-based Pressed Steel/Fisher Company, which itself had been formed by William Morris in 1925, with the American works-engineer Edward G. Budd, pioneer of welded-steel car bodies.

The activities of Pressed Steel were widened during the next few years to supply specially designed steel bodies and other equipment, not only for BMC's cars, but to much of the rest of the British car industry, including Bentley. It

also produced a batch of Hawker Hunter jet fighter assemblies for the Hawker-Siddeley Group.

Working with Mike Bellhouse, Edwards acquired the wartime grass aerodrome at Kidlington, where they collaborated in forming a flying school. Under the Pressed Steel banner they formed Beagle Aircraft, establishing, along with Peter Masefield, a British light aircraft manufacturing company.

From Beagle came the light twin-engine B206, in which the Prince of Wales gained his advanced flying experience,

and the Beagle Bulldog, which became a standard elementary trainer for the Royal Air Force, as well as for the Swedish and other air forces. Nationalised by Harold Wilson's Government of 1974, Beagle was sold to Scottish Aviation, and, in its turn, incorporated into British Aerospace in 1978.

Meanwhile, after the creation of British Leyland in 1968 (with Jaguar also being absorbed), Edwards was invited to move to Harland & Wolff in Belfast, first as deputy chairman, and from 1970 as chairman. The company survived, just, but as Anthony Burton writes in his history of British shipbuilding, it is clear that had its base "been in Newcastle or Glasgow instead of Northern Ireland", it would have been closed.

Through a long series of difficult industrial situations, Edwards gained a reputation for steadfast integrity and straight dealing. But he always refused to become involved in the political machinations surrounding industrial problems, other than by attempting to sort out the engineering and administrative consequences.

He retired to live at Sandbanks, to play golf and to join the Royal Motor Yacht Club. He was twice married: first to Frances Mabel Haddon Bourne, who died in 1975, by whom he had three sons and a daughter; and secondly, in 1976, to Joan Constance Mary Tattersall.

Thomas Heinitz, musician and hi-fi expert, died in London on May 26 aged 75. He was born on August 12, 1921.

Hi-Fi used to mean hi-falutin', but Thomas Heinitz, almost single-handed, made it popular with musicians. He succeeded because he understood not only the mysteries of recording equipment, but the music it is supposed to serve with such fidelity.

At his unassuming shop in Bayswater, he happily married technical expertise with the art he so much loved. Among his customers were Shostakovich, to whom he exported the first Quad loudspeakers to enter the Soviet Union, and Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears in Aldeburgh. At a time when hi-fi was considered an esoteric business, only for specialists interested in valves and tweeters, Heinitz's musical training meant he was able to speak to them authoritatively about their music while selling them the goods.

Yet he was never a great businessman: he always refused to sell an expensive piece of kit if he thought a cheaper one would serve the customer as well. He was also a champion of the small is beautiful school.

Heinitz was born into a musical family in Berlin, and was among the first Jewish children to be sent by their families to England when the Nazis took power. He was immediately enrolled at Bryanston, where he lost his accent and learnt to speak like any other public school lad of the day. He was already passionate about music, and befriended his Bryanston contemporaries the flautist Richard Adeney and the composer Peter Vishart.

At what was then Northampton Polytechnic, he studied electrical engineering while running a magazine called *Critique*, which he edited and wrote. He

worked as technical expert at the Gramophone Exchange in Soho in its golden days, while conducting the orchestra of the Workers' Music Association in his spare time. Among other credits to his baton, he directed the first British performance of Shostakovich's First Piano Concerto, with Paul Hamburger as



the soloist. But having started a family, he was forced to give up the time-consuming business of conducting to keep his job.

In the early 1950s, he set up on his own, as one of the first to sell hi-fi to the true music-lover. He was one of the

first in the country to do so, and he wedded the sale of discs to that of equipment in a unique manner. His Saturday afternoon live recitals enabled customers to listen to the latest LPs on the best equipment in a friendly, informal atmosphere.

Above all, he wanted musicians as customers, and he did all he could to woo them. The business flourished in a secure, small-scale way until the economic depression of the late 1980s. It was about to go down when it was saved by a like-minded businessman, Paul Rosefield. Young experts in their twenties then joined Tom in a new, profitable and happy relationship, which lasted until his death.

For 50 years, his burly, genial figure was a familiar fixture on the classical musical scene, and he wrote copiously and expertly about new recordings. He contributed regularly to *Saturday Review* in the United States, and, until its demise, to *Records and Recordings* in Britain. His reviews were at once wise and enthusiastic. He favoured late Beethoven, all Schubert and Wagner. He admired, in particular, the twin poles of Toscanini and Furtwängler.

Besides reviewing discs, he was a regular attendee at concert and opera performances, ready always to expatiate knowledgeably — and sometimes dictatorially — on the performance in question.

He regularly encouraged performers he admired, and was instrumental in the late flowering of the pianist Vlado Perlemuter and the early flowering of Mitsuko Uchida, whom he recommended to the veteran conductor Kurt Sanderling, sending him a tape of her playing. Sanderling immediately gave her a concert engagement.

His devoted wife, Viva, predeceased him. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

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ROYAL OPERA

THE RUSSIAN BALLET

The Ballet on Saturday night gave us nothing new but everything fresh. *L'Oiseau de Feu* given for the first time on Tuesday night was repeated and followed by M. Nijinsky's and Mme. Karsavina's delicious duet *Le Spectre de la Rose*, the gossamer fantasy of which was brushed away by the exuberance of the dances from Borodin's *Prince Igor*.

L'Oiseau de Feu is one of the best ballets brought to us by the Russians, who have brought us many wonderful things. The reason is that it contains so much. It does not concentrate upon one phase of emotion, like the intensely vivid *Scherazade*, which is to be revived on Wednesday, nor does it rivet attention upon the technical accomplishment of the dancers, a method which in England, where technique is not generally understood, is apt to be a failure. But it gives enough of these pleasures to be enjoyable to those who can appreciate them.

The prelude, with its sombre sound, its muttering theme on the basses, its touches of undefined colour on the wind instruments, prepares the mind beautifully for the rich scene by M. Golovine, the detail of which is half hidden in the strange green light. One

ON THIS DAY

June 24, 1912

Balletomanes were fortunate to witness, within a short space of time, two performances of Stravinsky's magical *L'Oiseau de Feu* (The Firebird) with Tamara Karsavina, and also Karsavina in *Le Spectre de la Rose* with the incomparable Nijinsky.

wonders whether the scene was painted after listening to the music, or whether the prelude was the result of M. Stravinsky's impression of M. Golovine's sketch. The luminous entrance of the fire-bird is the first clearly outlined fact given on the stage, while Mme. Karsavina flutters before our eyes struggling for liberty, the music takes a place of secondary importance. But it comes to the fore again in the charming episode where the 13 enchanted and enchanting princesses shake down the silver apples from the tree and respond coyly to the advances of Ivan, the hero. One gets a suggestion of some of the

dance figures of *Les Sylphides* here — less formal, of course, for instead of the elaborate pointed toe-dancing, the 13 princesses run bare-footed and it is only the grace of their movements and grouping which attracts the eye. This is the musician's opportunity and he takes it by abandoning the impressionistic style and giving us beautiful melody with a vein of tender sentiment which is as far removed from the dramatic opening as it is from the spectacular scene to follow. All those diverse elements are summed up in the scene where the fire-bird (more like a firefly than any bird we know of) hovers in the centre of the stage inspiring the ecstatic dances of the courtiers and the wicked old monster of the castle covers in a corner. One is inclined to grudge to Mme. Karsavina, the help of a mechanical contrivance for her final exit, when she has done so much flying on her own account through these scenes. It was just an instance of how impotent is realism in comparison with suggestion.

In *Le Spectre de la Rose* M. Nijinsky made his only appearance of the evening, but in the ten minutes that he was on the stage he gave us all the delightful qualities of his art — its buoyant youthfulness and joy in movement, in which there can be no suggestion of strenuousness.

0171-680 6878

OR

FAX: 0171 481 9313

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NEWS

Blair makes 'save the planet' plea

■ Tony Blair called on world leaders to save the planet for their children and grandchildren. He urged them to match Britain's ambitious target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by a fifth within 13 years.

In a plea to 70 heads of government at the United Nations the Prime Minister used his family to press home his message that the big industrial nations such as America would fail future generations unless they acted now. **Pages 1, 16**

College split on sex-change don

■ The only all-female college at Cambridge University has broken 126 years of tradition by admitting to its fellowship a woman who started life as a man. The decision to admit Dr Rachel Padman, 43, as a fellow of Newnham College has caused discord among senior academics. **Page 1**

Aid revolution

The link between Britain's £2 billion aid budget and domestic sales of arms and construction projects is to be severed. **Page 1**

Ulster arms deal

The British and Irish Governments have agreed a new approach to IRA arms decommissioning aimed at breaking the deadlock in the Northern Ireland peace process. **Page 2**

Killer hunted

A murdered music student was remembered by her family last night as "the little girl with the big voice" as police in Northampton stepped up the search for her killer. **Page 3**

Down to earth

Students looking for high salaries should beat a path to dentistry departments and put all thoughts of theology out of their heads, a survey submitted to the Government's review of higher education suggested. **Page 6**

War on nuisance

Residents who claim their tranquil lifestyle in a tiny Scottish village has been wrecked by three nuisance families are to hold a public meeting in an effort to tackle the menace. **Page 8**

12 years for Kray

Charlie Kray, the elder brother of the gangster twins, was jailed for 12 years for masterminding a £3 million cocaine deal. **Page 9**

BBC anger over Oasis scoop

■ BBC Radio 1 is involved in a war of words with a small Scottish radio station after it was beaten in the battle to be the first to broadcast the long-awaited new single by Oasis. Radio 1 DJs publicly accused Forth FM of skulduggery after the station scooped the BBC's exclusive first broadcast of Oasis's much-hyped *D'you Know What I Mean?* **Page 3**

Model train

A locomotive made from 185,000 bricks, and compared by its creator to the Pyramids, was unveiled in Darlington. **Page 11**

PoW breakthrough

British veterans maltreated in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps were claiming a breakthrough in their fight for compensation from the Tokyo Government. **Page 12**

German archives

Some of Germany's most famous companies are opening their archives to allow historians to assess their collaboration with the Nazis. **Page 13**

French family protest

Lionel Jospin is facing the first demonstration of his premiership today as French family groups protest outside the National Assembly against his plan to end universal child benefit. **Page 14**

Clinton setback

In a rare victory for the struggling Whitewater investigation, Hillary Clinton will have to surrender notes of private conversations with White House lawyers after the Supreme Court rejected her appeal. **Page 15**

Chinese move in

The British Government has accepted a Chinese request that an extra contingent of the People's Liberation Army be allowed into Hong Kong before the handover of sovereignty. **Page 17**



Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, former Wimbledon champions, at the opening of the new Number One court yesterday. **Page 48**

BUSINESS

Cable television: Cable and Wireless Communications and Tele-West, Britain's two largest groups, are in talks to form a common TV and phone brand. **Page 27**

Savers: The Government may use its new individual savings account to defend the tradition of munificence by restricting its use to building societies. **Page 27**

Millwall: Buchler Phillips, the accountants, became the proud owners of 10 million shares in the troubled second division football club, as part of the £400,000 payment received for work on its rescue. **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 18.1 to 4575.8. Sterling rose from 101.2 to 101.5, up from \$1.6539 to \$1.6647 and DM2.8647 to DM2.8673. **Page 30**

SPORT

Tennis: Tim Henman won his opening match at Wimbledon, defeating Daniel Nestor, of Canada, in straight sets in the inaugural encounter on the new No 1 Court. **Page 52**

Cricket: The second Test at Lord's in a draw, England finishing on 366 for four after Australia had declared at their overnight score in the hope of forcing victory. **Page 46**

Football: David Jones, of Stockport, was made manager of Southampton in succession to Graeme Souness. Andy Gray turned down the post at Everton. **Page 47**

Rugby union: Nigel Redman, the Bath lock, will captain the Lions against Free State today in the latest match of their South African tour. **Page 45**

ARTS

World art: The sleepy German city of Kassel is once again hosting Documenta, a global round-up of contemporary art. Richard Cork seeks inspiration in its underground passages. **Page 20**

Classical choice: German baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau was a sensation from his first recordings in 1951. But which CDs are the collector's pick? **Page 20**

Air play: The Japanese choreographer Saburo Teshigahara has turned his fascination with air into a 90-minute work that is rather too earth-bound. **Page 20**

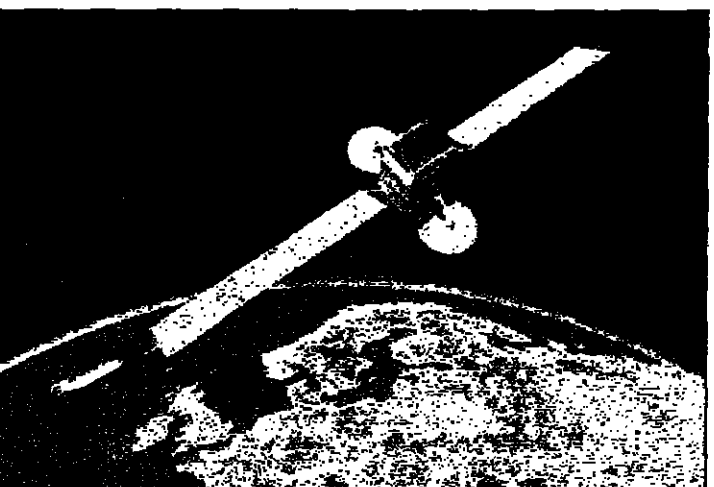
Glory boys: In the wake of critical and commercial acclaim for their album, Radiohead put on a terrific show in Dublin and demolished the beautiful losers tag. **Page 21**

TOMORROW

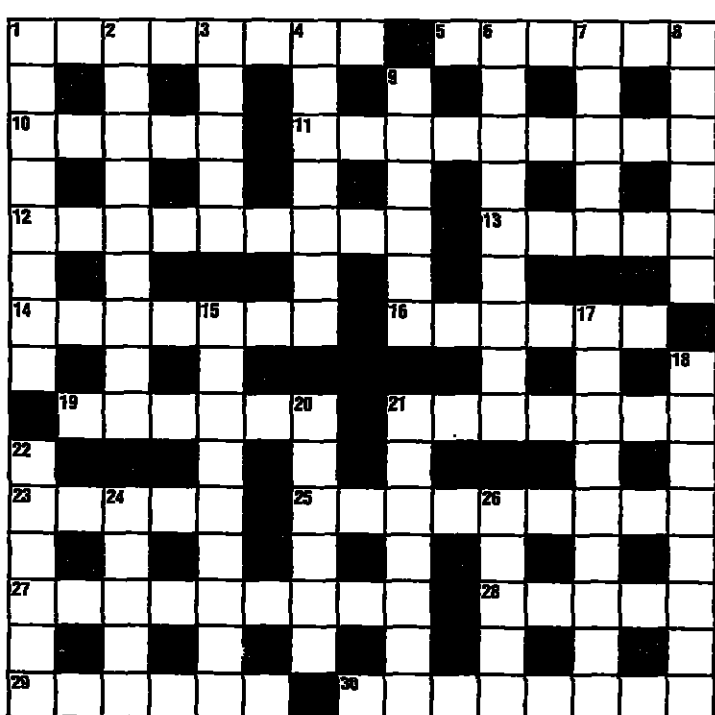
IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
As satellites gain more and more control, the IT weekly looks at how the space invaders rule our lives

■ **HOMES**
A warranty is no guarantee against building faults



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,514



- ACROSS**
- English medic's back on the job - that'll make delivery easier (8).
 - Salute move to take in Greek island (6).
 - Part of stage used for Pinafore (5).
 - Polo-stick's most effective in plastic (9).
 - Contemplating short international final (9).
 - Troublesome stray goat (5).
 - Tongue of land set in the silver sea (7).
 - Narrow margin of victory, with party squeezing in? Get knotted! (6).
 - Smells of fishing-boats (6).
 - Tool used by painter making up a last composition (7).
 - Cause of pain in doleful ceremony (5).
- DOWN**
- An old Jew's harp in need of repair, I understand (8).
 - The trick is to serve up exceedingly good pastries (9).
 - Church leader soon to become a priest (5).
 - Ship wrecked below embankment only slightly wet (7).
 - Dry places ruined this old timer (9).
 - The Way of the World? (5).
 - Not the practice, presumably, of the Circle Line (6).
 - Peter out? Cricket side produces a bottle of wine (6).
 - Make oneself liable for debts without interest (9).
 - Good job one remains upright in a fiddle! (5,4).
 - City seller of perfume (5).
 - Private papers destroyed (6).
 - Play about at a certain level in society (7).
 - Aspire to keep union leader in funds (6).
 - Stop that butterfly! (5).
 - Teacher's pet, almost (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,513

SCHOOLMARM ECHO
HILLIARY NA
HEARDOM NAVE
VENA I NEO
PAUNCH NUMBACY
L E A T
BIAS ACCEPTANCE
E I R R I L
CREDITABLE NOOK
E I S S
STRIPPER BUFFET
A S R E Y R D
FIASCO TETRAGON
N O T E N W
STIVE FLATRACING

AIR INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0236 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0236 401 410
Inside M25 0236 401 746
M25 and Link Roads 0236 401 747
International Motorways 0236 401 748
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THE TIMES

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banks at the
dawn of an era
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lawyers' complaints
processes?
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SPORT

Butcher leads
England to
safety at Lord's
PAGES 44-52TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JUNE 24 1997

Cockburn
joins BT
from WH
Smith

BY FRASER NELSON

WH SMITH, the struggling high street retailer, was plunged into fresh turmoil yesterday as Bill Cockburn, its chief executive of 18 months, resigned to become managing director of British Telecom.

His resignation was met with dismay in the City, and £99 million was wiped off WH Smith's market value as the shares fell 35p, to 376p — their lowest for almost two years.

Analysts said that Mr Cockburn's departure, as WH Smith starts an overhaul of its UK retail network, cast doubt over its chances of staging a full recovery. The fall came in spite of confirmation that year-end results will be in line with the £125 million expected by the market.

Jeremy Hardie, chairman, said he was disappointed by Mr Cockburn's decision to go, but said that he understood the attraction of his new job. He also credited him with freeing WH Smith from Do-It-All, the loss-making DIY chain, and Niceday, its troubled office supplies company.

He said: "We've had a great deal out of Bill. I find it hard to look back to the days when we had those two albatrosses around our neck. It's really good to think clearly now and take the business forward."

Mr Cockburn said he was sad to go, but the job offer was "irresistible". He joins BT in October and will report to Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman, — which analysts say may reignite rivalry the two are understood to have established when working at the Post Office in the 1970s.

Mr Cockburn will not join the board of Concert, due to be formed by a merger of British Telecom and MCI this summer, although third-in-command of the largest business. He will work in a separate building from Sir Iain.

Commentary, page 29



Cockburn: leaving retailer

CWC-TeleWest £5.5bn
link-up in prospect

BY ERIC REGULY

CABLE and Wireless Communications and TeleWest, Britain's two largest cable groups, are in talks to form a common television and phone brand that could lead to a £5.5 billion merger.

The move could give them powerful ammunition in their market share war against British Telecom and BSkyB, the satellite television company 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

Fred Vierra, chairman of TeleWest and chief executive of the Denver-based TeleCommunications International which owns 27 per cent of TeleWest, said yesterday: "TeleWest and CWC are talking about co-operating. We cannot rule out a full merger as a possibility down the road."

A merger would create one of Europe's largest multi-media groups. TeleWest was the cable industry's largest player until April, when CWC was formed through the £4.5 billion merger of Mercury Communications and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable companies. Cable and Wireless owns 53 per cent of the new company.

CWC has about 600,000 cable-TV customers, more than 12 million telephony customers and will have access to millions more when its networks are completed in four years.

TeleWest, whose market value has plummeted from more than £1.5 billion to less than £1 billion since its flotation in late 1994, has about 550,000 cable TV customers, 700,000 telephony customers and access to four million homes in its franchise areas.

Mr Vierra said he has held preliminary talks with Graham Wallace, chief executive

of CWC, about joining forces in some areas, specifically the branding, promotion and advertising of their phone and TV products.

Mr Wallace could not be reached for comment. TeleCommunications and CWC know each other well, however. The former has a 51 per cent voting interest in Flextech, the second-largest supplier of cable and satellite programming after BSkyB.

Flextech is in talks to supply programming packages, including the new subscription channels to be launched by the new Flextech-BBC joint venture, to CWC.

If TeleWest and CWC effectively merge their telephony and TV businesses, the Cable and Wireless brand probably would be adopted. CWC has dropped the Mercury name and is spending some £50 million to promote the Cable and Wireless brand.

Mr Vierra said: "What is mandatory is common brands and common promotion. TeleWest has not established a strong brand of our own."

A merger of TeleWest and CWC would require the approval of the Office of Fair Trading and Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator. Ofcom might look favourably on the deal because it would create a stronger competitor to BT. Ofcom wants BT's market share to continue declining so that it can step back as a day-to-day regulator and become more of a competition authority.

TeleWest is to announce today that Lynn Rexroth, chief operating officer, is returning to the US and will be replaced by David Van Valkenburg, who is currently a senior cable executive at US West International. US West owns 27 per cent of TeleWest.



Cable king: Fred Vierra says that TeleWest and CWC are talking about co-operating

Panel is
sacked in
shake-up
of PFIBY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday administered radical surgery to the Private Finance Initiative, sacking the panel that has overseen the troubled policy and putting the Treasury in direct control of future PFI work.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, was not able to detail the make-up and head of the new Treasury taskforce, the replacement for the PFI panel. But his move to streamline the policy — which brings private cash into public building projects — was largely applauded by industry, which has been heavy costs in money and time through the notoriously slow PFI process.

Mr Robinson backed a report by Malcolm Bates, the chairman of Pearl Assurance, which called for strong central line management of PFI and a core unit to participate in projects. He also wants projects to be prioritised and tested for suitability before the procurement process starts.

The CBI, which had lobbied for a role in reforming PFI, said the announcement was "what business wanted to hear". The CBI added: "The focus on immediate action is particularly welcome. So too is the attention given to medium-term issues such as improved training."

Mr Robinson said: "I am confident that at last we have the foundations on which public and private sectors, in partnership, can deliver an initiative to be proud of."

The Government is keen to get a number of large health projects off the ground and it is wedded to the PFI as a vehicle because it keeps public spending to a minimum. Education is another priority area for PFI work.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS
TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4575.0	(-18.9)
FTSE All share	2177.79	(10.14)
Nikkei	20438.14	(+50.80)
Dow Jones	7744.49	(-52.02)
S&P Composite	894.35	(-4.35)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	9 1/2%	(9 1/2%)
Yield	6.67%	(6.68%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
100 long bill	113 1/4	(113 1/4)

STERLING		
New York	1.6895	(1.6860)
London	1.6843	(1.6840)
DM	2.8666	(2.8643)
SFR	3.5564	(3.5584)
Yen	192.18	(188.84)
S Index	101.5	(101.2)

DOLLAR		
London	1.7200	(1.7288)
DM	5.8257	(5.8265)
SFR	1.4327	(1.4403)
Yen	115.25	(114.85)
S Index	102.7	(102.8)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$17.95	(\$17.90)

GOLD		
London close	\$338.40	(\$338.50)

* denotes midday trading price

BAT payout

BAT will pay \$1.7 billion this year as its first instalment towards the \$358 billion damages settlement agreed between the US tobacco industry and lawyers.

Page 28, Tempus 30

Reed deal

Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, picked up 39 trade magazines from Walt Disney yesterday in a \$447 million cash deal.

Page 29, Tempus 30

HSBC eyes Royal
Bank of Scotland

BY ROBERT MILLER

HSBC Holdings, the banking group that owns Midland, is believed to be poised for a takeover strike on Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

Sir William Purves, head of HSBC, which has a market capitalisation of £49 billion, is known to have a particular fondness for the Scottish clearer and could fund the purchase of RBS, which is capitalised at just under £5 billion, from £4 billion of surplus capital.

The Midland, which earlier this year dropped its famous griffin logo, is seen by analysts

in the City as the weakest of the traditional high street clearers.

A merger between the two, which would lead to the disappearance of Midland, would pose no competition threat.

As speculation continues to mount that Barclays wants to buy NatWest, although NatWest said yesterday that it had not received a formal approach, the UK banking sector is braced for a bout of mergers and takeovers.

New era, page 31

Pound sets another record

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE pound surged to another post-ERM high yesterday as interest rate and Budget worries continued to dominate the markets. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose 0.3 to a five-year record of 101.5 as the pound rose more than a cent to \$1.6647.

Sterling also touched a post-ERM high against the German mark, rising from DM2.8647 to DM2.8673. Traders predicted that the pound should push towards DM2.90 in the near future.

However, the stock market slipped for the sixth consecutive day as fears grew that the Bank of England will make a

half-point rise in base rates to 7 per cent.

The FTSE 100 closed down 18.1 points at 4,575.8, with major exporters, such as ICI and British Steel, hit by the renewed rise in sterling. FTSE 100 debutants, Alliance & Leicester and Halifax, also declined because of profit taking, while tobacco stocks fell in the wake of the \$358 billion US tobacco industry damages settlement.

The latest economic forecast from the Society of Business Economists, which is published today, predicts that growth will slow rapidly over the next two years as tax and

interest rate rises begin to bite. David Kern, chairman of the SBE's forecasting team and group chief economist at NatWest, said that GDP growth will hit a peak of 3.5 per cent this year as windfall payments boost consumer spending, but it will fall back towards 2 per cent in 1999.

Inflation is forecast to reach more than 3 per cent next year, above the 2.5 per cent target, although the strong pound will limit it to 2.4 per cent at the end of this year.

Mr Kern said the SBE does not anticipate any outright recession and output should continue to grow.

New saving account
'limited to societies'

BY NATHAN YATES AND ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Government may use its new individual savings account (ISA) to defend the tradition of mutual building societies, people still have real choice in financial services, and people on lower incomes can get the benefits of services that are run in the interests of the customer, and not simply the shareholder.

Government sources emphasised that plans for ISAs are not yet detailed, but ministers are said to be considering all options.

The Halifax which has the largest share of the savings market said last night that the ISA should not be restricted to a "small and decreasing sector of savings providers. We hope that any scheme would be launched in a similar way to Tessa — offered to savers through a broad range of savings institutions."

The Nationwide, now the largest building society commented: "We do not want to seek an unfair advantage. But we do want to see a level playing field between banks and building societies."

Ms Keeble used her maiden speech to make a plea for mutual building societies, people still have real choice in financial services, and people on lower incomes can get the benefits of services that are run in the interests of the customer, and not simply the shareholder.

Millwall administrator takes shares in part-payment

BY JASON NISSE

BUCHLER PHILLIPS, the accountants, yesterday became the proud owners of ten million shares in Millwall, the troubled second division football club, as part of the £400,000 payment it received for its work on the club's rescue.

Millwall was placed in adminis-

tration during January with debts of £10 million and was relisted yesterday after Theo Paphitis, the stationery and lingerie businessman, backed a £10 million rescue rights issue at 1p a share.

Buchler Phillips, the administrators, agreed with Millwall to convert a quarter of its fee into shares, receiving 10 million shares at 1p

each. Yesterday the accountants were sitting on a £25,000 profit as the shares rose to 14p in the market.

Lee Manning, who headed the Buchler Phillips team, said: "It was a way of us helping the club get going. I wish them the best of luck — except when they play Fulham, who I support."

Mr Manning, whose colleague,

David Buchler, is a former director of both Barnet and Tottenham Hotspur, defended the level of fees, which work out at 4 per cent of Millwall's debts. "This was a labour-intensive deal," said Mr Manning. "We had four or five people working constantly for six months."

When Buchler Phillips took control of Millwall it went further than

many had expected by sacking the manager, Jimmy Nicholl, and 19 other members of staff, as well as putting 12 players on the transfer list. The administrators then hired a new manager.

The rescue by Mr Paphitis leaves Millwall with £2.75 million to spend on its stadium and about £500,000 for buying new players.

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Lonrho 'firm' on hotels sale and demerger plan

By PAUL DURMAN

Lonrho assured investors yesterday that it is still on track to sell its Princess Hotels chain and to demerge many of its African businesses, as it reported a sharp fall in first-half pre-tax profits from £61 million to £38 million.

However, Nick Morrell, chief executive of Lonrho, said talks with JCI, the South African mining company that proposed a merger last month, remained at an early stage. "There are a number of questions which we have

asked which we would like answers to," he said. Lonrho hopes to come to a decision "in weeks" on whether to proceed with the talks.

The JCI deal has been portrayed as a way to allow Anglo American Corporation to carry out the enforced sale of its 27 per cent stake in Lonrho by swapping the holding for Lonrho's 33 per cent stake in Ashanti Goldfields of Ghana.

Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's former chief executive and still a large shareholder, urged the company not

to do a deal with JCI. In a statement he detailed Anglo American's extensive links with JCI and suggested Anglo American's interest in Ashanti was the rationale behind the merger proposal, and questioned the quality of JCI's gold mines. "JCI needs Lonrho, but Lonrho certainly does not need JCI," Mr Rowland added.

Lonrho's negotiations to sell Princess Hotels to Prince al-Waleed bin Talal have dragged on for many months. Mr Morrell said the delay had been caused by the demands of

the lenders to the transaction. "We are towards the end of the process of satisfying the lenders," he said.

Operating profits from Princess fell from £12 million to £10 million in the half year to end March, but Mr Morrell does not expect this to affect the eventual sale price.

Lonrho's results were hit by the strength of sterling, lower profits from Ashanti, weak prices of platinum and gold, and weaker performances from its African businesses. Operating profits fell from £92 mil-

lion to £70 million. The company also had to write-off the £15 million it invested in the Amantaytau gold project in Uzbekistan, having decided it offered insufficient returns. Dieter Böck, former chief executive, was closely involved in this project.

The full-year results will include a £129 million exceptional profit on the recent sale of Lonrho Sugar for £225 million. The interim dividend, payable on October 1, was held at 2.25p.

Tempos, page 30

BAT to pay \$1.7bn instalment in US tobacco damages

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BAT INDUSTRIES will pay \$1.7 billion this year as its first instalment towards the \$358 billion damages settlement deal agreed between the US tobacco industry and anti-smoking lawyers.

Shares in BAT closed down 22½p at 567½p after the news, although analysts said that the decline was mainly because of profit-taking.

But the City was divided on the merits of the deal, with critics claiming that the US tobacco industry had agreed a much tougher deal than expected without having ever

suffered a serious reversal in the US courts. BAT supporters said the deal would end the uncertainty clouding the share price and pointed to the fact that Brown & Williamson, the company's US tobacco subsidiary, is currently valued at zero by BAT's share price.

BAT, the third largest tobacco company in the US, has a reserve of about \$3 billion to pay for the first contribution and is expected to raise cigarette prices in the US by about 50 cents a packet to cover the costs of future payments.

Apart from the financial

payments, the US tobacco industry has also agreed to tougher regulation in return for immunity from class action and state legal claims. Individual claims can still be brought, although the settlement attempts to cap potential losses at \$1 billion and precludes the award of punitive damages.

But there were signs yesterday that some of the initial euphoria which greeted the deal's announcement on Friday was wearing off with fears increasing that the settlement could still face a bumpy ride through Congress before becoming law.

Shares in the UK's other tobacco companies, Imperial and Gallaher, also fell back as concern mounted that the anti-tobacco battle would now switch to Europe. Imperial, which produces the Regal and Embassy brands, fell 18p to 282p, while Gallaher, best known for its Silk Cut and Benson & Hedges brands, dropped 13½p to 393½p.

The two companies are already facing an attempt to bring a 40-strong class action damages case next month, while a number of health authorities have recently expressed an interest in pursuing medical costs claims through the courts.

The industry is also under siege from the Government which has announced plans to further restrict tobacco advertising and is convening an anti-smoking summit in the middle of next month.

But the two companies insist that they are under no pressure from investors to consider pursuing a US-style settlement. No UK legal case to date has made substantial progress in the courts, while the UK tobacco industry is already taxed about three times more highly than in the US and has tougher advertising restrictions in place.

Tempos, page 30

Insurers will not be asked to bear tobacco deal cost

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BAT Industries will not seek to offload the cost of its landmark tobacco liability settlement in the United States on its UK insurers, a move that will relieve firms with BAT policies, including Commercial Union and Royal & Sun Alliance.

In theory the cost of litigation and settlement could be passed on to those companies with whom BAT took out general product liability insurance from the 1930s onwards. However, BAT is believed to have decided not to pursue its insurers. Eighty per cent of any proceeds it won from them would have to be paid to the US states, in addition to the industry's \$358 billion official settlement.

Paul Hodges, a divisional director of Schroders and the author of a report into BAT's historical liability coverage, believes that last week's historic settlement

"diminishes" the threat of BAT taking its insurers to court. He said: "Had BAT and the other tobacco manufacturers been allowed to retain more than 20 per cent of the proceeds from a court settlement they might have been more willing to take the matter further."

"Nevertheless, the deal still has a number of hurdles to overcome. If it falls apart the tobacco companies could well look again at their insurance coverage. The threat is diminished but not entirely eliminated."

A spokesman for BAT said: "Any claim from our insurers would depend on lots of different policies spanning several decades, all with different exclusion clauses. Our opinion on these clauses is irrelevant as they would certainly be tested in a court."

Commentary, page 29



Joseph Wan, chief executive of Harvey Nichols, where results were below expectations

Mismatch at Harvey Nichols

HARVEY NICHOLS, the Knightsbridge fashion retailer, failed to match analysts' forecasts yesterday as it lifted pre-tax profits by a third to £12.1 million in its first full financial year as a public company (Dominic Walsh writes).

HSBC James Capel, the group's broker, had pencilled in profits of £12.8 million (£9.2 million last time). The shares shed 16½p to 286p, compared with 270p at flotation.

Joseph Wan, chief executive, said that the group's new £10 million Leeds store, which opened in October, was still trading well after a spectacular first few weeks, generating two thirds of the sales of the Knightsbridge store in its first six months.

However, he gave warning that the "huge impact" of the opening blitz was unlikely to be sustainable and predicted a settle-down figure of about

50 per cent of the flagship store's sales. Total turnover in the year to March 29 rose 27 per cent to £114.2 million, with just under half that improvement coming from the Leeds opening and the £3.8 million Oxo Tower restaurant, London. Launch costs of £1 million for these sites were partly to blame for slightly lower than expected profits.

A final dividend of 3.9p makes 5.8p for the year.

Shares plan for water directors

YORKSHIRE WATER directors will be in line for share allotments worth more than £50,000 if shareholders back a long-term incentive plan to reward performance (Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which was fined by the regulator for its poor performance in the 1995 drought, will face shareholder opposition at its annual meeting from Waterwatch, the lobbying group.

The incentive plan will offer shares up to the value of 40 per cent of directors' salaries. Payouts will depend on the performance of Yorkshire's shares against a group of other water companies.

Yorkshire will put the scheme to shareholders on July 10. The company said that the plan would be extended to senior managers in due course.

Standard Life investment chief quits after a year

By MARIANNE CURPHEY



Barfield: guidelines

JOHN THOMSON, Standard Life's chief investment manager, yesterday resigned after a boardroom disagreement over how the mutual insurer is run.

Mr Thomson had been in the job just a year, after having been promoted last June when his predecessor, Dick Barfield, resigned at 49 to pursue other interests.

Mr Barfield shook up the investment market by issuing a set of corporate governance principles shortly before he left the company.

In accordance with those guidelines, Mr Thomson will receive no pay-off as he was on a contract with a short notice period. Mr Thomson, 47, has been with Standard Life for 15 years and managed more than £50 billion of funds. He is

expected to leave on July 15. He joined in 1982 after ten years as an economist and investment analyst. Sandy Crombie, 48, his superior, said that Mr Thomson had handed in his notice last week after the difference of opinion over how the fund management arm had developed.

Mr Crombie said: "Standard Life has publicly stated that it wants to expand its investment management operation to compete with other fund managers. John and I disagreed over the pace and order in which that was to be done. He has tendered me his resignation and he will leave here in a few weeks in an orderly fashion. We have yet to find a replacement for him."

Commentary, page 29

Unit trust sales at May record

UNIT trusts recorded their highest sales for May, worth £673 million against £528 million in the same month a year ago (Robert Miller writes).

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF) said that the record May sales were down on the previous month's figure of £1.6 billion, which included end-of-tax-year personal equity plan (Pep) sales. The association added that Pep sales in May were £642 million, compared with £567 million last year.

Funds under management in 1,694 trusts rose to £149 billion, against £143 billion in April, while unitholder accounts increased to 8.9 million from 8.5 million in April and from 7.4 million in May last year.

Autif said that, for the fourth successive month, the UK growth sector was most popular with private investors.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.31	2.14
Austria Sch	21.06	19.51
Belgium Fr	62.03	57.29
Canada \$	2.425	2.250
Cyprus Cyp£	0.888	0.851
Denmark Kr	11.44	10.61
Finland Mk	9.08	8.36
France Fr	10.38	9.56
Germany Dm	3.01	2.79
Greece Dr	127	127
Hong Kong \$	13.82	12.54
Ireland P	1.15	1.07
Israel Sh	8.12	8.47
Italy Lira	2.925	2.743
Japan Yen	206.30	189.80
Malta	0.570	0.513
Netherlands Gld	3.289	3.121
New Zealand \$	2.59	2.36
Norway Kr	12.61	11.73
Portugal Esc	300.50	275.50
S Africa Rd	8.17	7.25
Spain Ptas	253.50	234.50
Sweden Kr	13.57	12.54
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.32
Turkey Lira	250.885	234.617
USA \$	1.782	1.628

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Digital-TV ruling due today

By ERIC REGULY

BRITAIN'S two largest ITV companies will learn this morning whether they have won the right to launch digital terrestrial television, a broadcasting system that will greatly expand viewers' choice with dozens of new channels.

The chances of British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), originally formed by Carlton and Granada, the ITV broadcasters, and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, improved at the weekend when BSkyB agreed to withdraw from the consortium. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

The move came after the Independent Television Commission told BDB that BSkyB's inclusion in the group posed competition problems. BSkyB already dominates satellite broadcasting, and the

ITC fears that it could use its influence to dominate digital terrestrial broadcasting as well.

Granada and Carlton are now negotiating to buy BSkyB's one-third stake in BDB. BSkyB would still supply BDB with its premium sports and film channels. These channels, along with those to be supplied by the new BBC-Flextech joint venture, would form the heart of BDB's programming. BSkyB might also supply its subscriber management systems.

BDB's only competitor is the Digital Television Network (DTN), owned by NTL, an American cable company. United News & Media, the ITV and newspaper group, recently agreed to invest £120 million in DTN if DTN's bid

succeeds. Until BSkyB's withdrawal, DTN seemed to have the upper hand. There is some chance that the ITC will split the licences, allowing each group to broadcast digital TV on a smaller scale.

The loser of the digital-TV sweepstakes is likely to seek judicial review of the decision. If DTN loses, it will probably argue that BSkyB's withdrawal as an equity partner did not alleviate the competition issues because BSkyB would still supply programming and probably subscriber management services.

BSkyB shares declined 11p to 487½p, partly on concerns that the BDB bid will not win. The shares fell sharply last week after Sam Chisholm and David Chance, the company's two top executives, said they would resign in January.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Phytopharm venture for obesity treatment

PHYTOPHARM, the Cambridgeshire company that develops medicines from plants, is to work with a research agency backed by the South African Government to develop a treatment for obesity. CSIR, which has a \$150 million turnover and 3,300 staff, has been working to isolate the appetite-suppressant properties of an indigenous South African plant. However, the active constituents have proved many times less effective than the whole plant extract.

Whereas most conventional drugs are single chemicals, Phytopharm hopes to secure regulatory approval for plant-based drugs that are a combination of different compounds. It intends to apply this experience in the CSIR plant. The CSIR will retain the marketing rights to any resulting product in South Africa, while Phytopharm will seek licenses for other markets. With more than 70 million obese adults in the developed world, the obesity market is estimated worth up to \$30 billion.

Adare out to acquire

ADARE PRINTING raised pre-tax profits 41 per cent, to £10.9 million, on sales up 65 per cent, to £116 million. Earnings per share rose 29 per cent, to 62.2p. The year's dividend rises 50 per cent, to 7.59p. Denis Bergin, chairman, said: "The group will continue to make acquisitions in its strategic path of branded goods and services in niche print and stationery sectors. The group is assembling scale to its activities to ensure that it is a solid, cash-generative entity."

TBI flies to £19m

TBI, the commercial property group that owns Belfast and Cardiff airports, almost doubled pre-tax profits to £19.1 million last year after increasing the number of shops for passengers. The company, which last month bought Orlando Sandford airport in Florida, said average spend per customer at Cardiff rose 6 per cent. Net asset value rose 14 per cent, to 47.3p a share. Earnings rose 18 per cent, to 4.22p a share. A 1.5p dividend is due on October 1. Interim payouts will start next spring.

Sema wins Thames deal

SEMA, the Anglo-French computer services group, has won a £23 million contract to look after the computer system of Thames Water, the privatised water company. The deal, which is to last over seven years, adds to Sema's existing list of five water companies, making it the largest player in the sector. Thames Water's existing computer staff will be transferred over to Sema, with most moving to work in Andover, Hampshire. No jobs are being lost.

VTech Holdings ahead

VTech HOLDINGS, the consumer electronics manufacturer, announced pre-tax profits of \$50.6 million (\$35.7 million) for the year to March 31. The rise came after growth in demand for its educational toys, strong sales in cordless phones and restructuring of the computer division. Group turnover was \$731 million (\$688 million). A final dividend of 5 cents (5.5 cents) is set to be paid on August 6, making a total of 8 cents (8 cents) for the year.

High rise for Allen

ALLEN, the building contracting and engineering group, raised pre-tax profits 34 per cent to £10.5 million in the year to March 31 on sales that rose 41 per cent to £154 million. Earnings per share rose 15.2 per cent to 18.8p, out of which the total dividend increases 13 per cent to 7.5p. The company says the outlook for the construction market continues to improve and it is confident that the group will again achieve a considerable improvement. The shares rose 4p to 336½p.

Tadpole issue flops

TADPOLE TECHNOLOGY, the troubled laptop computer producer, has failed to meet its target of raising £2.5 million in rescue funds after its rights issue flopped with a 40 per cent take-up rate. The company raised £2 million through a firm placing, but found only £2.08 million of the £5 million it hoped to raise through the rights issue. It plans to use the cash to resuscitate its microchip board division and refill the marketing budget for its SPARCbook computers.

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Hardie's perennial problem



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Bill Cockburn's decision to leave WH Smith in favour of the managing director's job at BT had a deeply depressing effect on the Smith share price. The reaction was right but perhaps the reasons were wrong.

Understandably, Mr Cockburn has leapt at the chance to take a higher salary in a business that is in the process of securing a long-term future through its merger with MCI. Coming at a time when the main WH Smith chain is no nearer to finding a raison d'être than it was when he joined the group 18 months ago, the headhunters must have sounded like messengers from heaven when they first whispered their proposition in his ear.

But his departure leaves Jeremy Hardie, Smith's chairman, with the same problem he had when Mr Cockburn was recruited from the Post Office, fresh from trying to persuade the Government that full scale privatisation was what the PO deserved. What he faced was the difficulty of providing a reason why shoppers should head for WH Smith. Waterstones is not a bad bookshop, while Virgin and Our Price know how to sell music. Through those businesses, WH Smith has been effectively cannibalising its eponymous store chain for years and there is as yet little indication that the painful process will halt.

Mr Cockburn has had some difficulty in finding the retail dream team to transform the

business. Earlier this month the commercial director left after nine months in the job. A month earlier one Beverley Hodson was paraded as the new head of retail. She had the benefit of not being linked to the Smith founder, as had been her predecessor, but her other qualifications for the job were hardly impressive. Most recently, she had been in charge of some of Sears' shoe shops, including the Dolcis chain.

Sears shareholders, for whom shoes have proven to be as painful as bunsions, may not have felt this made her the ideal candidate for the job. But Mr Cockburn was more adept at dispensing with people — and businesses — than acquiring them. In his 18 months, he certainly scaled down the business effectively. Some would say, however, that selling companies is not too bothered about the price. He wasted little time in riding Smith and half share in the Do It All DIY business. This macho management helped turn a 1995 profit of £100 million into a pre-tax loss of £200 million.

The philosophy may have been right, but timing important.

Boots, Smith's partner in the Do It All joint venture, decided to hang on, continue sorting out the business, and wait for the upturn in the market. While Smith continues to pay its former partner for taking on its share of the venture, Boots is confidently predicting profits next year.

It may be mean to point it out, but it was not just the WH Smith share price that sank on news of his move: BT slipped backwards too.

Caveat emptor - you will pay in the end

Three hundred and fifty eight billion dollars is a great deal of money — even if you say it quickly or spread it out over 25 years. But anyone who thinks that the settlement struck between the Clinton administration and the tobacco companies is the end of the issue about who pays for the health

problems caused by the cigarette makers — or indeed drinks or car manufacturers — is living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

Already the US senate is indicating what horrors may lie ahead with comments like: "This deal is only square one." Weeks of debate are bound to follow. And there will not be many votes to be had in downtown Poughkeepsie by favouring Philip Morris. What's more, this settlement only deals with the claims by the US states, and leaves the tobacco companies open to individual actions, especially as the fag makers now have to admit liability. Other countries outside the US must be salivating at the judgement. British Columbia in Canada looks like being the first non-US government to move. Health service trusts over here could follow soon and the German federal states will not be far behind.

And if tobacco companies have to pay out to cover the medical

costs of treating cancer and lung disease victims, why should it end there? Why not force drinks makers to pay for the treatment of people with liver complaints, or the damage caused when lager louts go on the rampage? And shouldn't the car companies have to pay for the pollution damage caused by their cars?

The tobacco ruling opens the floodgates. It says: "Here are a bunch of guys who made profits without regard to the medical damage that their products cause. Now they have to pay." It is a lesson the likes of T&N and the chemical companies have learned with their asbestosis liability or environmental clean-up cases in the US, that the sins of 20 years ago can come back to haunt you today. Claiming you have cleaned up your act may not help. If you are a carmaker whose new models stand up to the emissions tests, you will have to pay out for the lead poisoning caused by your 1960s model.

The ramifications for business could be horrendous. The US has already demonstrated in the area of medical care the escalating costs of litigation. Liability cases have pushed up medical care costs because of the insurance charges and have brought a shortage in particularly litigious fields. In the future if you want a smoke, or a drink, or a car you will have to pay through the nose for it.

Steamroller wanted to steer the PFI

Malcolm Bates has been admirably speedy in delivering his thesis for revitalising the Private Finance Initiative. If he could have encouraged Pearl Assurance, where he is chairman, to take a similarly energetic attitude to dealing with some of its mis-sold pensions, Economic Secretary Helen Liddell would undoubtedly have given him a pat on the back. But, on the basis of yesterday's evidence, the problems of PFI are rather more easily dealt with than those of pensioners. All that is required is prioritising of projects, a little gentle testing and some strong

management from the customer side of the equation, and all will be well.

Yet it may take a little more than a wave of the Mandelson magic wand to bring wary construction companies rushing to build new hospitals.

Putting PFI squarely under the control of the Treasury is an admission of the importance of the scheme to the Government's plans but will hardly reassure those who have already spent expensive months battling with bureaucrats to persuade them that their shareholders do not expect them to provide the country's capital projects on a charitable basis. It is now essential for the PFI initiative to have a chief executive who can steamroller schemes over Whitehall's obstacles. The candidate needs to be someone who understands how business operates and how civil servants think.

Its a standard life

JOHN THOMPSON has quit Standard Life after a row over policy. He is said to have no sincere waiting in the wings, but is leaving without the now customary farewell handshake that normally accompanies executive departures, along with trite comments about furthering personal ambitions or wishing to run a poolside parlour in the South of France. This may be Scottish meanness at work, but it is to be applauded.

Reed Elsevier buys Disney magazines

By ADAM JONES

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, picked up 39 trade magazines from Walt Disney yesterday in a \$447 million cash deal.

The purchase of Chilton Business Group from ABC, a Disney subsidiary, follows Reed's announcement in March that it was willing to spend £3 billion on acquisitions this year.

Disney was looking to shed Chilton, which operates mainly from Pennsylvania and whose titles include manufacturing, automotive and entertainment sector magazines.

Chilton made profits of \$28 million last year and has enjoyed 17 per cent compound growth in profits since 1992. Its other interests include exhibition management and business research services.

Reed's interest was regarded as logical, given its ownership of Cahners Publishing, the US group with more than 90 specialised trade journals worldwide. Chilton's trade magazine and research services will be merged with Cahners.

Nigel Stapleton, co-chairman, said: "We expect the acquisition to be earnings accretive for Reed International and Elsevier from

the outset. Chilton brings a strong management team and excellent content which will enhance the critical mass in our ongoing electronic community initiatives in the manufacturing and entertainment sectors."

The deal, which is subject to US Government clearance, has tax benefits. Reed will be able to amortise about two thirds of the \$400 million-plus cost related to intangibles and goodwill over 15 years.

Mark Armour, chief financial officer, said that it could raise margins at Chilton from their 1996 level of 14 per cent, with 20 per cent a target. Some savings are expected to come from paper purchasing and distribution.

Headed said there was still "substantial financial capacity" for further purchases. He also brushed aside suggestions that the current success of the Lexis-Nexis database, bought for £1.1 billion at the end of 1994, was threatened by decreasing co-operation from Reuters, the news agency, which is pushing its own stand-alone services harder.

Tempus, page 30

Compass in French meals deal

By ADAM JONES

COMPASS, the acquisitive international contract caterer, pushed further into Europe yesterday with a deal to buy SHRM, a French group with a strong presence in school and hospital meals.

Compass said yesterday that it has agreed the purchase of 93.32 per cent of the company for £12.19 billion, with the balance expected to be bought in due course. SHRM had sales of £3.88 billion in 1996, making profit before tax of £129.5 million.

Compass also announced that it has agreed to sell its 17 per cent shareholding in Generale de Restauration back to the French company's owner, Compagnie Generale des Eaux. The stake was bought for £28 million in January and is being sold because of the more complete French exposure given by the SHRM deal. Compass is expected to show a significant profit having paid only an initial £80 million.

Yorkshire Food incurs £26m loss

YORKSHIRE Food Group, the troubled producer of dried fruit and nuts, yesterday said that it continued to enjoy the support of its bankers in spite of unavailing pre-tax losses of £26.3 million for 1996, against profits of £5.9 million for 1995 (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company's shares, ravaged by profits warnings, fell a further 1p to 10½p. They were floated, in 1993, at 110p.

The figures, on turnover down from £174.4 million to £159.8 million, were slightly worse than expected, largely because of adverse trading conditions in the US and losses from discontinued operations.

Mike Firth, chairman and chief executive, has been overseeing disposal of most of the group's UK businesses and is now sorting out its US businesses and restructuring its finances.

A company spokeswoman said: "They're not out of the woods yet, but they've got the support of their banks and they're moving forwards."

Chinese tycoon raises stake in Chelsfield

NINA WANG, the Chinese property tycoon, has increased her stake in Chelsfield, the property company run by Elliott Bernard, investing a further £8.5 million to increase her stake by 1 per cent to 14 per cent (Carl Mortished writes).

Ms Wang, who is said to be one of the world's richest women and controls Chinachem, the Hong Kong property group, is also director of Chelsfield. She

joined the board a year ago as a non-executive director at the same time as Lubna Olayan, a member of the Saudi Arabian Olayan family which owns a 9 per cent shareholding in Chelsfield.

Ms Wang, whose interest is held through a private company, Summerwind, bought 2.3 million shares on Friday at 370p per share. Chelsfield's share price slipped 3½p yesterday to 367p.

Important information for all Lonrho shareholders from Mr R W 'Tiny' Rowland

LONRHO-JCI

Will a couple of paper trades enrich Lonrho shareholders?

LONRHO, A FAMOUS AFRICAN PRESENCE, IS IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING A MERGER WITH THE TROUBLED JCI

Lonrho shareholders are entitled to know: Who is behind these merger talks, and what can be expected from them?

Dear fellow shareholder,

After saturation press coverage on the JCI deal, black empowerment, potential synergies and other subjects, Lonrho shareholders are entitled to know what is behind it all. Several weeks ago, shareholders were told that Mr Khumalo and his black empowerment group had taken over control of JCI, effectively by having 10% in a little property company called NKP, which has a 34.9% stake in Safilife, which in turn holds 30% in JCI. If that already seems too confusing do not bother looking at the network of 20 or so companies built around Mr Khumalo which help to divert public attention from Anglo's involvement.

Much has been written about Mr Khumalo, his mentor Mr Rosenberg, and how he started his business. Lonrho shareholders may be interested to learn:

- that Mr Khumalo was appointed a non-executive member of the board of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Ltd, on 1 April '97
- that Mr Khumalo has been on the board of an Anglo associate since '94
- that Mr Khumalo's mentor is a director of AMIC, another Anglo company, as well as being the CEO of McCarthy Group Ltd.
- that McCarthy Retail Ltd, where Mr Khumalo was a board member, is a company 85% owned by the Anglo company McCarthy Group Ltd
- that 3 top executives of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Ltd, including the new chairman of Amplats and one director of JCI, are on the board of McCarthy
- that McCarthy helped to set up Mr Khumalo's Capital Alliance, and
- that the Safilife consortium behind the acquisition of the JCI shares from Anglo, priced at R 54.50 per share, is virtually a "Who's Who" of Anglo associates and Anglo nominee companies.

Throwing light on Mr Khumalo's background and backers still doesn't fully explain why Anglo, Khumalo and his new partner Kebble, are so keen to get Lonrho's board to agree to a merger with JCI.

Looking at JCI's assets, with its troubled major gold mines, Western Areas, Randfontein and the more interesting Joel, the conflicts with the labour force (including the possible redundancy of 4100 mineworkers), and JCI's financial position, shareholders will ask themselves why Lonrho would want to merge its low-cost, high-potential mining assets with those of JCI, if it weren't for Anglo's influence. A look at the new JCI board, where the majority come from Anglo's camp (including Mr Wadson, who briefly represented Anglo on Lonrho's board), makes it clear who is in charge of the deal.

Lonrho shareholders will be puzzled if they look behind JCI to the structure of JCI's controlling shareholders, who include the new partners of Mr Khumalo, the Kebbles and companies like Consolidated Mining Corporation (CMC) and Hosken Consolidated Investments (HCI), Anglo associated companies, and two companies called Randgold and Randgold Resources. Khumalo and Kebble, the new 'controlling' shareholders of JCI, have based their investment in JCI on a complicated web of new and old companies. Two pillars of their investments are the 30% in JCI, bought for R54.50, but now trading at R32 levels, and an investment in Randgold Resources, a company whose value is based mainly on a loss-making mine in Mali. Bought for \$30m in cash plus paper from giant BHP, the mine seems suddenly to have a far higher value according to Khumalo's new partners, CMC, Randgold and Randgold Resources.

It is quite hard to see where Lonrho's potential South African partners expect to make money, other than by taking advantage of Lonrho's undervalued assets. Lonrho shareholders need answers to the following natural questions:

- 1 Is the driving rationale Anglo's extreme interest in the Ashanti mine, rather than the unequal merger?
- 2 What are the true financial strengths and weaknesses of the parties proposing the merger? It is easy to see what they can take from a merger, but not what they can contribute.
- 3 Will Lonrho's board yield to pressure from Anglo American, the controlling shareholder of Lonrho?
- 4 Why is JCI now controlled by a labyrinthine network of companies? Who is in charge of the complicated network behind JCI?
- 5 The new partners of Mr Khumalo base their future on the investments they hold via Randgold in Randgold Resources, a company to be floated this week in London whose main asset is a loss-making mine in Mali. What is the real value of the mining assets of Khumalo's partners? How strong are the new controlling shareholders in JCI, and what role will they play in any merged Lonrho-JCI company?
- 6 The JCI deal was described as 'black empowerment' by Anglo; with Khumalo's new partners, some analysts now call it 'Black empowerment', after the Randgold chairman, Peter Flack. What experience and background in mining do the new people involved in JCI have, and how does their track record look? Lonrho's mining assets have an excellent track record. What about JCI/Randgold?
- 7 Mzi Khumalo has said to the financial press that JCI under his direction will be the world's

leading gold producer. Where then is the logic in proposing to hand Lonrho's excellent gold interest over to Anglo and merge JCI with the rump of Lonrho?

- 8 JCI's new board is still controlled by Anglo directors. What would the new Lonrho/JCI look like? Even if Anglo were to buy Lonrho's 33% stake in Ashanti with their 28.4% in Lonrho (17% of which is held by a trustee at the order of the European Commission) + cash on a £500m+ basis, wouldn't the majority of any new Lonrho-JCI board be Anglo loyal?
- 9 In local newspapers all over Africa, Lonrho is reported to be selling assets. Why doesn't Lonrho's board tell Lonrho shareholders that their given task is to hand over a cash loaded Lonrho mining company to Anglo and its partners in JCI? What other explanation can they offer for the loss of will to run our company?
- 10 Lonrho was the only real Pan African company. Africa is becoming the emerging market with investors interested in all areas of Africa. Why can't Lonrho's board use Lonrho's strength to build up a strong Pan African mining company instead of merging it with 'second class' assets in South Africa?
- 11 There are reports that plum positions in a merger may have already been offered to Lonrho executives. That's the wrong end to begin on any deal. Safeguarding Lonrho's shareholders and what's left of Lonrho's assets is the right end of the deal. As the single largest individual shareholder, I want Lonrho to do a good deal. I strongly oppose a JCI deal as so far reported in the press as no business - just show business. JCI needs Lonrho, but Lonrho certainly does not need JCI.

Yours sincerely,

Tiny Rowland

R W ROWLAND
23 JUNE 1997

'As Mr Khumalo explained in a recent interview with the Financial Mail: "It's been disappointing. Very disappointing. Old Mutual, Liberty Life, Sanlam, these big institutions, didn't put a penny in."

'An unrealised book loss of R1.02bn.

'As a journalist in the South African Star has put it: "I can't pretend to understand the vagaries of the bullion price, or even hope to properly grasp the complicated deal weaving done by Brett Kebble / Mzi Khumalo with ConsMining and NK Properties."

'R. W. Rowland is a non-executive director of Ashanti Goldfields Plc.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Double dose of profit downgradings hits ICI

ALMOST £300 million was wiped from the £6.15 billion stock market price tag of ICI as it was hit by a "double whammy" of profit downgradings.

The price ended 41p lower at 807½p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, a rival, made substantial cuts to their figures. The strong pound and difficult trading conditions were being blamed.

The price ended 41p lower at 807½p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, a rival, made substantial cuts to their figures. The strong pound and difficult trading conditions were being blamed.

Merrill is said to have cut its forecast for the current year from £530 million to £480 million and for 1998 by £80 million to £640 million. Kleinwort lopped £100 million from its current year estimate of £540 million after meeting the company before its second-quarter close period.

Brokers reported heavy buying of "puts" on the options market, indicating that the shares are set to fall further. Only last week ICI raced up on a recommendation from Paine Webber, the US securities house, which set a target for the shares of 950p.

American investors have been viewing ICI in a more positive light since it bought Unilever's specialty chemicals business.

Meanwhile, the group has begun its global equity offering of shares in ICI Australia, which it owns 88 million shares, or 62.4 per cent. It plans to sell between 120 million and 140 million of them.

Another big sell-off of the index on the futures market provided another lurch downwards for the cash market. One broker said: "It looks as if someone has got a bad position out there and is frantically trying to cover it."

At one stage, the FTSE 100 index was down almost 47 points, but it rallied, finishing 18.1 down at 4,575.8 as 870 million shares were traded.

GECC led the rally with a rise of 15½p to 354p as the old story about a merger with British Aerospace, down 1p at £13.48½, resurfaced. A total of 11.24 million GECC shares had been traded by the end.

Norwich Union, a newcomer, touched 333½p before finishing just 2p firmer at 326½p on vague bid talk. It seems more likely that market-makers are short of stock.

Troubled NatWest Group was hoisted 3p to 783½p on reports that it might be found itself the target of a bid from Barclays Bank, up 5½p at £11.69. Barclays has dismissed the reports as speculation.



Shares of Next, the retailer, finished 6p lower at 682½p

Last month NatWest proposed a merger with Abbey National, down 8½p at 790p, which was rejected. Since then it has issued a profits warning and the head of NatWest Markets, its securities arm, has resigned.

Alliance & Leicester fell 8½p to 594½p after taking its place along with Halifax, down 20½p at 749½p, as constituents of the top 100

companies. BSKyB had another rocky ride as the price fell 11p to 486½p. The satellite broadcaster, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, has been forced to pull out of digital terrestrial broadcasting and will have to sell its stake in British Digital Broadcasting. Granada, 3½p easier at 835p, and Carfax Communications, unchanged at

516½p, are the other shareholders in BDB.

WH Smith fell 35p to 376½p after the sudden departure of Charles Cockburn as chief executive midway through the group's restructuring programme. He is to join BT in October as managing director.

Tony Shire, an analyst at BTW, said that the departure of Mr Cockburn left the company rudderless and prone to re-litigating.

Next ended 6p lower at 682½p. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson thinks that poor weather has affected sales. The same may apply to other store groups. Losses were seen in JJB Sports, down 19p at 466½p, Blacks Leisure, 32½p to 417½p, John Menzies, 12½p to 445p, DFS Furniture, 12½p to 585p, Kingfisher, 12p to 695½p, and Argos, 7p to 564½p. Eurotherm finished 8½p lower at 371½p after Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, said that the shares were "overvalued". It said that the group was struggling to deal with the impact of strong pound. Pressure on prices and margins was certain to increase in the second half. Michael Blogg, an analyst, said: "It's an uphill struggle and the hill is getting steeper".

Recycling Services was also hit by a profits warning, falling 25p to 87½p. The group said second-half profits would be materially less than those in the first half, which included a three month contribution from G&P Batteries.

Premier Healthcare was sent reeling 5p to 19p by the news that it expects to report a full-year loss of £1.1 million because of the decline in US nursing homes.

Investors appeared reluctant to open fresh positions before tomorrow's auction of £2 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2003. Prices drifted for much of the day, with longer dated issues proving more resilient than shorts.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt finished 8½p lower at £1134½ in low turnover that saw just 38,000 contracts completed.

At the longer end, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £1132½ off at £1077½, while among shorter dated issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks lower at £1021½.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was down 52.02 points at 7,444.49 at midday.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7444.49 (-52.02)
S&P Composite 944.35 (-4.39)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20,036.14 (+50.60)
Hang Seng 15,021.25 (+133.13)

Amsterdam:
EEX index 360.86 (+1.34)
Index 2706.30 (+6.30)

Singapore:
Straits 2034.79 (+26.38)

Brussels:
CAC-40 3409.12 (+3.65)

Paris:
CAC-40 3409.12 (+3.65)

Zurich:
SEA Gen 1467

London:
FTSE 100 4575.8 (-18.1)
FTSE 250 4547.7 (-30.3)
FTSE 100 4575.8 (-18.1)
FTSE 250 4547.7 (-30.3)
FTSE All-Share 2177.9 (-10.14)
FTSE Non Financials 2208.3 (-10.39)
FTSE Fixed Interest 123.32 (+0.33)
FTSE Govt Secs 92.03 (+0.30)
Bargains 543.30
SEAQ Volume 871.5M
US\$ 1.647 (+0.0108)
German Mark 2.673 (-0.0026)
Exchange Index 101.5 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (Hpm)
LSECU 1.467
RPI 156.9 May (2.9%) Jan 1989-1990
RPIX 156.3 May (2.9%) Jan 1989-1990

RECENT ISSUES

Anton Villa 797½
Callaher 282 -18
Heart of Midlothian 111½
Highland Timber 124½
Integrated As Mgt 125
Longbridge Int'l 117½
Norwich Union (250) 336½
Powell Dymally 197½
Reaumur Mrln 109
Royalblue Mrln 206 -3½
SBS Group 111½
Tops Tiles 112½
Versatile Group 3½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Century Inns n/p (155) 1½
Mithras Holdings n/p (1) 7
Waterfall Hldgs n/p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Treat 151½ (+9p)
Nat West 783½ (+37p)
GEC 558½ (+15p)
Allt Mead 620½ (+10p)
Fletch 50p (+8p)
Proteus Int'l 802½ (+17p)
Br Airways 702½ (+13p)
Cable Wireless 559p (+9p)
Ryl Bk Scot 583p (+8p)

FALLS:
Smith WH 164½ (-9p)
Kingsbury Corp 145p (-10p)
Forth Ports 555p (-30p)
Diagonal 336p (-18p)
ICI 807½ (-25p)
Jarvis 291p (-13p)
JJB Sports 466½ (-19p)
Waste Recycl 277p (-10p)
Tibbet & Britn 580p (-17p)
Mancies (John) 445p (-12p)
Henrys 459p (-12p)
Bosch 75p (-20p)
MAD 149p (-10p)
Flying Pig Wus 345p (-23p)
Norblin 182p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

A deal to gasp over

AMERICANS are different, or so they tell us. They don't like taxes and they don't like governments telling them what to do. Instead, someone must take the blame. The sacred freedom to sue and be sued lies behind the complex \$358 billion settlement between the tobacco industry and the state health authorities, which promise to rein in their lawyers as long as the industry continues to pay the agreed settlement.

This is, however, really tax under another name. BAT's Brown & Williamson will pass on the \$2 billion annual penalty in the form of a 50 cent increase in the price of a pack of 20 tomorrow's smokers will pay for the past sins of the tobacco industry. More evidence of hypocrisy can be found in the cynical attempt to plug a loophole in the settlement. Foreign tobacco manufacturers or anyone who fails to

sign up to the deal (politely referred to as "renegades") will be refused immunity from suit (fair enough) but will be subject to a sales tax at the same rate as the proposed price increase.

Thus, the tobacco barons will protect their turf from interlopers selling cheap cigarettes; the barons' price for agreeing to pay this non-tax is the Government's agreement to impose a tax on others. This deal could be good for BAT, if only because it allows investors to put a price on a solid but declining cashflow. The price increase will hurt volumes, possibly taking \$100 million off BAT's \$1 billion of US profits. Valuing that on a multiple of 6 to 7 suggests that BAT shares, at 567p, are at least £1 undervalued. However, Congress still has to pass the legislation and lawyers could still scupper it; so celebrations may be premature.

Lonrho

ONE day it may be possible for investors to value Lonrho without worrying about the hive of corporate activity buzzing in the background. Currently, that day seems as far away as ever. Lonrho's prospects are wrapped up in next year's demerger of its African businesses, the long-delayed sale of Princess Hotels and the putative merger with JCI of South Africa.

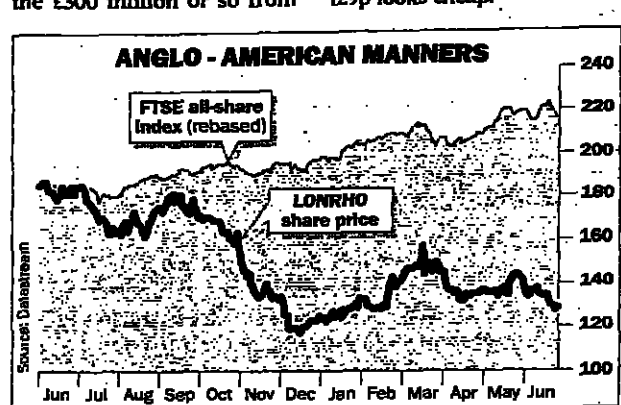
Investors are assured that the sale of the Princess chain to Prince al-Waleed bin Talal is held up only by the banks' demands for due diligence. A deal with JCI looks much less likely. While Lonrho expresses cautious interest, JCI's sketchy outlined proposal, makes little sense. The suspicion remains that JCI is simply piggy-in-the-middle of Anglo-American's scheme to grab Lonrho's highly

prized stake in Ghana's Ashanti Goldfields. Supposedly an example of black empowerment, the South African Government's ambitions for JCI would surely fall by the wayside if it merged with Lonrho.

A more intriguing prospect for Lonrho and its shareholders would be to use the £300 million or so from

Princess Hotels to buy back Anglo-American's 27 per cent stake. Lonrho would then preserve its Ashanti holding but Anglo would be left with egg on its face.

Including the quoted Ashanti and other investments at market value, Lonrho is worth 163p per share. Even with all the doubts, the market price of 129p looks cheap.



Reed/Elsevier

REED ELSEVIER was brandishing a £3 billion war chest earlier this year. In that context, yesterday's purchase of Chilton Business Group from a Disney subsidiary for \$447 million is small beer but it has its attractions.

Chilton is a business-to-business publisher with titles catering for the automotive and entertainment industries. This is grist to the mill for Reed's business publications arm. Costs will be assiduously cut but Reed's main focus today is getting its magazines and data on line.

The Anglo-Dutch group wants royalties and fees from on-line data transmission to form a big part of its future profits and Chilton's titles will soon be fed into this market. Given the potential for revenue enhancement, the cost savings available in the conventional publishing operations and the tax breaks to be enjoyed on \$270 million of the cash consideration, \$447 mil-

lion seems a fair price. The deal may be earnings enhancing immediately, but given the risk that full-year profit forecasts will suffer from the strength of sterling and increased development spend, the shares are not worth chasing.

TBI

TBI is setting itself up as BAA's little brother, an airport operator with a sideline in property investment. At the moment, property investment is still contributing the lion's share of TBI's profits; the pre-tax gain in the past year was boosted with £6 million of property trading profits.

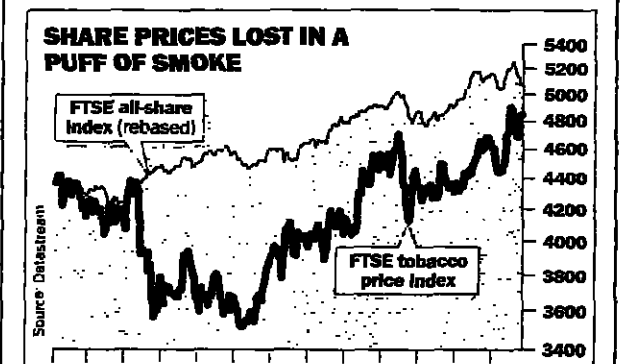
Investors cannot rely on real estate to swell the coffers every year but the airports should quickly overtake investment property as the main profit earner. Airport rents already outstrip the income from the real estate portfolio but more importantly, TBI has yet to tap the poten-

tial of these businesses, which should become more reliable sources of revenue. Growth at Belfast and Cardiff was hindered by the well-publicised capacity reductions initiated by tour operators, which have now been reversed. Passengers at Belfast spend only £1.95 per head at the airport, well below the £5.66 earned by BAA at its airports.

Of course, Belfast and Cardiff will never achieve the spending rates at Heathrow, lacking the high-speed international transfer passengers, but there is no reason why Belfast passengers should not double their spending.

Valuing TBI is a puzzle, but its airports should grow at faster rates than BAA and therefore justify a premium. A sum of the parts valuation suggests £1 per share and in this property market, a 12 per cent discount is hardly appropriate.

EDITED BY CARL MORTHEW



BRITISH tobacco companies fell sharply in response to the US litigation settlement thrashed out over the weekend. It is reckoned to be worth \$358 billion over the next 25 years. Worst hit was BAT Industries, down 21½p at 567½p, followed by Gallaher, 18p off at 282p, and Imperial Group, 13½p lower at 393½p.

Paul Preston, at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, was surprised by the falls, saying: "The impact on profits will be limited. All the money paid out can be recovered through a price

increase of 50 cents a pack, apart from a £1.7 billion down-payment met from reserves."

Imperial and Gallaher are not involved in the US litigation and Mr Preston says there is little prospect of it happening over here.

"There is only one action in the UK and its not made much progress," he adds. He says BAT should be "trading round of 640p" a share and that with the group's US arm valued at zero, Bui Martin Hawkins at Greig Middleton, the broker, described the deal as "horrific".

COMMODITIES

ICE-100R (London 500pm)
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)
Brent Physical 17.55 (+0.41)
Brent 15 day (Sep) 17.55 (+0.25)
Brent 3 month (Sep) 17.95 (+0.25)
WTI Intermediate (Sep) 19.05 (+0.15)

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)
Spot CFE NW Europe (transit) Offer
Fuel Oil 180 (Sep) 191 (+11)
Fuel Oil 180 (Nov) 191 (+11)
3.5 Fuel Oil 180 (Nov) 191 (+11)
Naphtha 174 (Nov) 176 (+11)

PE FUTURES (GNT LMD)
Aug 1620.25-25 (Nov 1687.50-80)
Oct 1620.25-25 (Nov 1687.50-80)
Nov 1620.25-25 (Nov 1687.50-80)

BRENTI (0.00pm)
Jul 17.78-17.80 (Nov 18.24-18.26)
Aug 17.78-17.80 (Nov 18.24-18.26)
Sep 17.78-17.80 (Nov 18.24-18.26)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK
Average prices (pence) at representative markets on June 23
Cattle 100 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000 1005 1010 1015 1020 1025 1030 1035 1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 1225 1230 1235 1240 1245 1250 1255 1260 1265 1270 1275 1280 1285 1290 1295 1300 1305 1310 1315 1320 1325 1330 1335 1340 1345 1350 1355 1360 1365 1370 1375 1380 1385 1390 1395 1400 1405 1410 1415 1420 1425 1430 1435 1440 1445 1450 1455 1460 1465 1470 1475 1480 1485 1490 1495 1500 1505 1510 1515 1520 1525 1530 1535 1540 1545 1550 1555 1560 1565 1570 1575 1580 1585 1590 1595 1600 1605 1610 1615 1620 1625 1630 1635 1640 1645 1650 1655 1660 1665 1670 1675 1680 1685 1690 1695 1700 1705 1710 1715 1720 1725 1730 1735 1740 1745 1750 1755 1760 1765 1770 1775 1780 1785 1790 1795 1800 1805 1810 1815 1820 1825 1830 1835 1840 1845 1850 1855 1860 1865 1870 1875 1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905 1910 1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050 2055 2060 2065 2070 2075 2080 2085 2090 2095 2100 2105 2110 2115 2120 2125 2130 2135 2140 2145 2150 2155 2160 2165 2170 2175 2180 2185 2190 2195 2200 2205 2210 2215 2220 2225 2230 2235 2240 2245 2250 2255 2260 2265 2270 2275 2280 2285 2290 2295 2300 2305 2310 2315 2320 2325 2330 2335 2340 2345 2350 2355 2360 2365 2370 2375 2380 2385 2390 2395 2400 2405 2410 2415 2420 2425 2430 2435 2440 2445 2450 2455 2460 2465 2470 2475 2480 2485 2490 2495 2500 2505 2510 2515 2520 2525 2530 2535 2540 2545 2550 2555 2560 2565 2570 2575 2580 2585 2590 2595 2600 2605 2610 2615 2620 2625 2630 2635 2640 2645 2650 2655 2660 2665 2670 2675 2680 2685 2690 2695 2700 2705 2710 2715 2720 2725 2730 2735 2740 2745 2750 2755 2760 2765 2770 2775 2780 2785 2790 2795 2800 2805 2810 2815 2820 2825 2830 2835 2840 2845 2850 2855 2860 2865 2870 2875 2880 2885 2890 2895 2900 2905 2910 2915 2920 2925 2930 2935 2940 2945 2950 2955 2960 2965 2970 2975 2980 2985 2990 2995 3000 3005 3010 3015 3020 3025 3030 3035 3040 3045 3050 3055 3060 3065 3070 3075 3080 3085 3090 3095 3100 3105 3110 3115 3120 3125 3130 3135 3140 3145 3150 3155 3160 3165 3170 3175 3180 3185 3190 3195 3200 3205 3210 3215 3220 3225 3230 3235 3240 3245 3250 3255 3260 3265 3270 3275 3280 3285 3290 3295 3300 3305 3310 3315 3320 3325 3330 3335 3340 3345 3350 3355 3360 3365 3370 3375 3380 3385 3390 3395 3400 3405 3410 3415 3420 3425 3430 3435 3440 3445 3450 3455 3460 3465 3470 3475 3480 3485 3490 3495 3500 3505 3510 3515 3520 3525 3530 3535 3540 3545 3550 3555 3560 3565 3570 3575 3580 3585 3590 3595 3600 3605 3610 3615 3620 3625 3630 3635 3640 3645 3650 3655 3660 3665 3670 3675 3680 3685 3690 3695 3700 3705 3710 3715 3720 3725 3730 3735 3740 3745 3750 3755 3760 3765 3770 3775 3780 3785 3790 3795 3800 3805 3810 3815 3820 3825 3830 3835 3840 3845 3850 3855 3860 3865 3870 3875 3880 3885 3890 3895 3900 3905 3910 3915 3920 3925 3930 3935 3940 3945 3950 3955 3960 3965 3970 3975 3980 3985 3990 3995 4000 4005 4010 4015 4020 4025 4030 4035 4040 4045 4050 4055 4060 4065 4070 4075 4080 4085 4090 4095 4100 4105 4110 4115 4120 4125 4130 4135 4140 4145 4150 4155 4160 4165 4170 4175 4180 4185 4190 4195 4200 4205 4210 4215 4220 4225 4230 4235 4240 4245 4250 4255 4260 4265 4270 4275 4280 4285 4290 4295 4300 4305 4310 4315 4320 4325 4330 4335 4340 4345 4350 4355 4360 4365 4370 4375 4380 4385 4390 4395 4400 4405 4410 4415 4420 4425 4430 4435 4440 4445 4450 4455 4460 4465 4470 4475 4480 4485 4490 4495 4500 4505 4510 4515 4520 4525 4530 4535 4540 4545 4550 4555 4560 4565 4570 4575 4580 4585 4590 4595 4600 4605 4610 4615 4620 4625 4630 4635 4640 4645 4650 4655 4660 4665 4670 4675 4680 4685 4690 4695 4700 4705 4710 4715 4720 4725 4730 4735 4740 4745 4750 4755 4760 4765 4770 4775 4780 4785 4790 4795 4800 4805 4810 4815 4820 4825 4830 4835 4840 4845 48

Dawn of a new era for banking sector

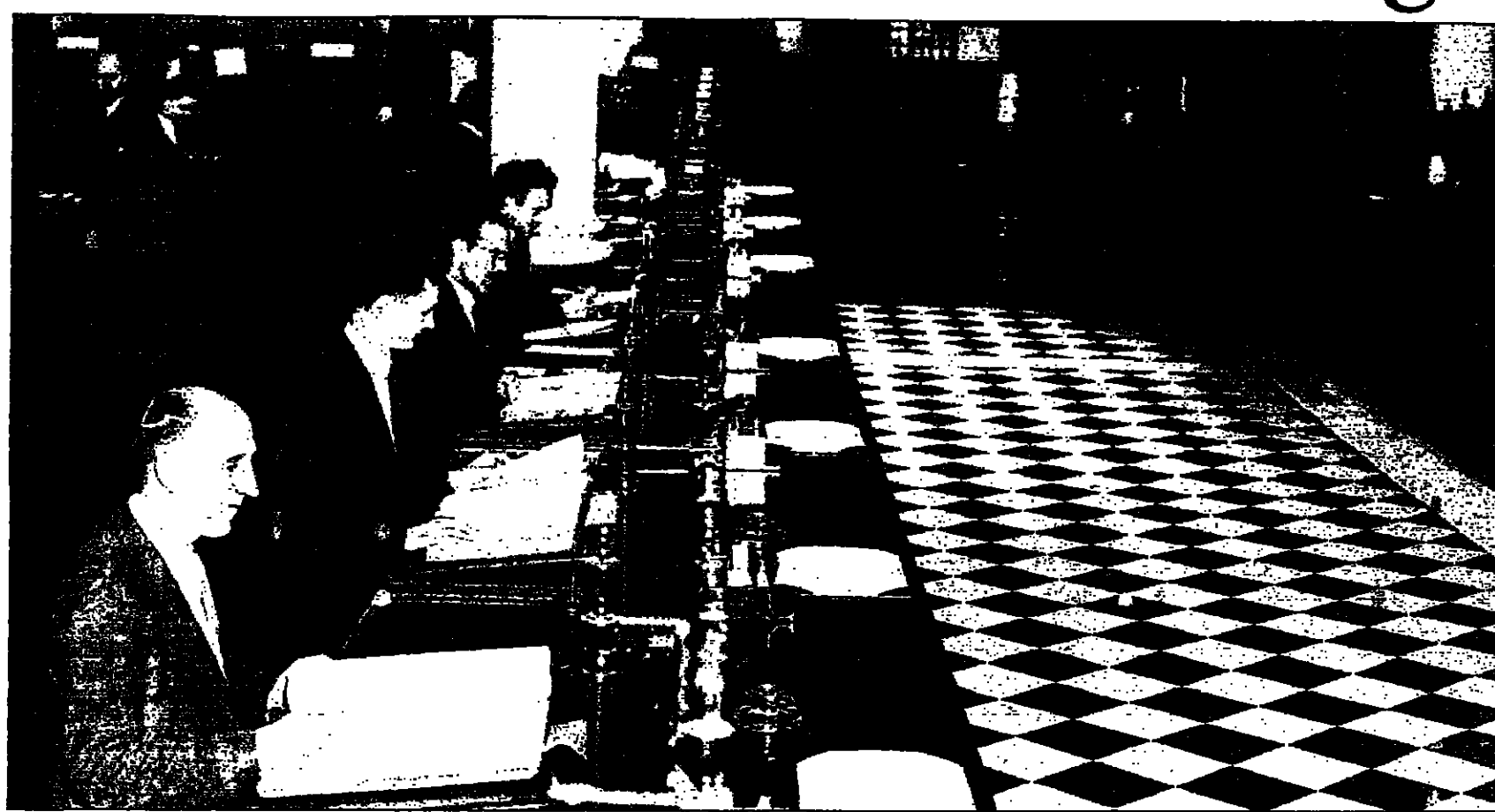
Rationalisation is
virtually inevitable
for the over-banked
British high street,
says Robert Miller

Talk of an opportunistic bid for the troubled NatWest banking group by Barclays, its arch-rival, is probably just that — but only for the moment. The time is fast approaching when the over-banked high streets of Britain will see a rationalisation changing the look and the way in which personal financial services are sold.

There are many reasons behind the latest flurry of activity in the banking sector, which has seen a brief flirtation between NatWest and Abbey National, Barclays merging with NatWest and now HSBC rumoured to be looking at Royal Bank of Scotland, or maybe Abbey National. One recurring theme, however, and a powerful motivator for talk of rationalisation, is profit. Since the spring, pension fund and unit trust managers have been piling into bank shares, which have risen 15 per cent in relative terms to the market. So with gains, and handsome ones in some cases, it is time for the money managers to sell?

What has given the sector a boost is the arrival of Halifax and Alliance & Leicester fresh from their building society conversion. Both are now part of the elite FTSE 100 index of top UK companies, with Halifax making its debut yesterday, and the increasing number of fund managers tracking the index are still underweight in the former societies, with the Woolwich still to come. Mike Blackburn, head of the Halifax, has never made any secret of his ambition for the Halifax to be "the leading personal financial services provider in the UK — by a long way", and further acquisitions will undoubtedly be needed to fulfil his ambition.

The latest arrivals can explain some of the froth in the sector, but by no means all.



Changing times: by the turn of the century the high street could be dominated by five big bancassurers catering for all banking and personal finance needs

The sentiments of Mr Blackburn are probably nearer the mark but logically they cannot all be the largest players in the banking high street. Those who would like to be and probably have as much financial muscle as the banks are the life offices and foreign banks.

Among the insurers the Prudential needs a suitable high street outlet to beef up its telephone banking operation. It has been the market view for some time that the Pru would dearly love to buy the Woolwich, even though it is ring-fenced from a hostile bid for five years. Similarly, if the supermarkets, such as Tesco and Sainsbury, want to become serious play-

ers in banking they too will need to rethink their strategies, possibly with an acquisition.

Suitable candidates might well include the Nationwide. Although sworn to mutualism, as are the Yorkshire and Bradford & Bingley, Nationwide appears to have lost its sense of direction. The recent farce over the attack on its mutualism by Michael Hardern and his fellow "carpetbaggers" is cited by analysts as just one indication of how much the UK's number one society is under siege. The five-year protection rule is all well and good, but if a reasonable offer is put to the board, the directors have a duty to

consider it. Similarly, if a fellow mutual, such as Standard Life, wanted to enhance its standing as Europe's largest mutual insurer and fledgling bank, then it could be shown that Nationwide and other desired targets are not too far off.

When Abbey National wanted to buy National & Provincial Building Society it ignored the private rebuff and appealed direct to members only too pleased to be handed another "windfall". Result? N&P no longer exists.

The bid and merger rumours swirling round the banks, as opposed to the insurers and supermarkets, are partly a result of the Halifax's desire to be the

biggest and the best. But there are other factors at work. NatWest, for example, has a credibility problem which has been exacerbated by the £90 million blackhole in the interest rate options book at NatWest Markets (NWM).

Losses on such a scale are not unknown, particularly in the volatile derivatives market. What shocked observers and Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chief executive, is that the losses went unnoticed for years. The market view is that Martin Owen, the former chief executive of NWM who quit last week, should have stood down sooner and the

remedial action that is clearly needed at the investment bank should have been taken by NatWest much sooner.

As a result of its reluctance to act with any sense of urgency NatWest is seen as vulnerable to takeover. This was underlined by the fact that it was so keen to do a deal with Abbey National. The proposed terms were kept within the boardrooms but it takes little imagination to work out that the top roles would have gone to Abbey people rather than NatWest.

The overlap of branches is another factor. If UK banks do end up merging or taking over each other, the clearest targets for cost savings would be more branch closures accompanied by further heavy job losses. In the present political climate that may be a stumbling block to some image-conscious bankers, as could the competition angle in the shape of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Parallels are often drawn between NWM and BZW, the global investment banking arm of Barclays. Neither has offered a respectable return to shareholders when set against the amount of capital injected into them. Barclays has spent hundreds of millions of pounds on buying in senior managers rather than buying businesses. Both investment banks are vulnerable but Barclays can probably buy a little time, whereas time appears to have run out for NatWest Markets.

The lesson to be drawn from NWM and BZW is that building a global investment banking operation is like trying to scale Everest without oxygen. It can be done, but few achieve it. As Sir Brian Pitman has shown with Lloyds TSB, there is much to be said for sticking to the knitting, or even retail banking.

None of the UK banks can feel particularly happy about their market positions, although in terms of "getting it right" so far, Lloyds TSB, Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland can feel some satisfaction, as can Abbey National.

However, the fact is that Britain over-banked. By the turn of the century it has been estimated that the high street will be dominated by five big bancassurers catering to all banking and personal finance needs. On that scenario it is not hard to see why the money managers are prepared to take such big positions in bank shares.

As advertising outlets proliferate independent agencies fight to survive, says Eric Reguly

Chris Ingram, the chairman of CIA Group, is in a bad mood. Things were going swimmingly at the media-buying company until he learnt that the head of CIA's Italian business had sold his 14.4 per cent stake to WPP Group, the advertising giant that owns Ogilvy & Mather and J Walter Thompson.

He now fears that CIA, one of the few independent players in the media-buying industry, is about to get drawn into WPP's global conquest strategy, especially now WPP has bought another 1.8 million shares. Ingram, 54, the "CI" of CIA, said: "I wasn't very pleased... because we want to remain independent. But I wasn't surprised."

Indeed, WPP's investment in CIA reflects the growing importance of media buyers in general, and stand-alone buyers in particular, as the market becomes more fragmented. WPP's intentions are not known. Officially, the CIA shares are being held as an "investment", but it is an open secret that Martin Sorrell, the group chief executive, wants to merge the media divisions of Ogilvy and JWT in Europe, but his efforts are thought to have been resisted.

One theory making the rounds is that Sorrell might buy all of CIA and use it as a platform to create a separate media-buying business that probably will include the media divisions of Ogilvy and JWT. Alternatively, he could simply use the threat of acquiring CIA to speed up the "unbundling" process at Ogilvy and JWT. The former is more likely. There seems little doubt that WPP will seek

Power battle stirs passions in complex world of media buying



Independent: Crispin Davis of Aegis



Global aims: Martin Sorrell of WPP



Displeased: Chris Ingram of CIA

to increase its stake in CIA. Sorrell would not comment on his intentions for WPP but confirmed that combining the media-buying power of WPP's agencies is his long-term plan. CIA planted the seeds of its own potential destruction in 1993 when it bought 40 per cent of Mediamerica, the Italian media buyer founded by Marco Benatti ten years earlier. Benatti, now 44, took shares instead of cash and became vice-chairman of CIA's £17 million share placing last week diluted his stake from 14.4 per cent to 12.5 per cent. Mediamerica's billings more than doubled in three years as it gained clients such

as Kraft and Toyota. The success of the Italian operations masked growing friction between Ingram and Benatti. "There is a fundamental difference in style," Ingram said. "Benatti sees himself as action man and probably thinks we're ditherers here, though we are expanding rapidly into new countries."

The Italian's inability to speak English did not help. The relationship deteriorated and Benatti decided to unload his CIA shares. Last month WPP, to Ingram's great shock, emerged as the buyer, paying £170.5p a share for a total £10.2 million of shares. WPP agreed to pay Benatti another £3.3

million if CIA is taken over in the next year by any other company.

Incredibly, Benatti still runs the Italian operations, though he has resigned from the main CIA board. Sorrell admires Benatti and there seems little doubt that Benatti would be sympathetic to WPP's efforts to gain control of CIA.

If CIA disappears into WPP's maw, Aegis, the holding company for the Carat media-buying agency, will have the independent media-buying field to itself. Crispin Davis, the former Procter & Gamble food executive who became Aegis's chief executive in 1994, will relish the status

costs and reaches different demographic groups. Stand-alone media buyers believe they are better equipped to research and develop media strategies because it is their sole job.

Two other factors are changing the media-buying landscape. The first is globalisation — as big companies become borderless, they want to develop global images and launch global marketing campaigns. As a result, the demand for media buyers that can cover huge swathes of the globe is rising. CIA and Aegis are devoting all their efforts to global expansion, though the former has only a small presence outside of Europe.

The second is power. Sorrell thinks media buyers have to expand to offset the likes of Time Warner and Westinghouse, which have been able to use their enormous shares of the TV market to ram through double-digit price increases for advertising space. Larger media buyers, he notes, could act as a "counter-balance". It is a matter of basic economics — the greater the buying power, the larger the discount.

In WPP's latest annual report, Sorrell said: "Given this background, it is not surprising that increased focus has developed on media buying, with the growth of media independents like Carat and CIA."

Ironically, it was WPP that was to make CIA the subject of its "increased focus". Combining CIA with the media arms of Ogilvy and JWT might give WPP a headstart in the race to create large, stand-alone media buyers.

Late bath

TREVOR NEWTON, the former Yorkshire Water managing director who boasted he hadn't taken a bath for three months in the height of the 1995 drought, has come up smelling of roses. Mr Newton received a handsome £79,000 from his old employers for six months work last year. This came after he beat a hasty retreat from the company last May after Yorkshire's appalling performance during 1995 and revelations

that rather than skipping a wash he had, in fact, been nipping over the Yorkshire border to relatives to use their more plentiful water supplies.

He must have been bathing somewhere, because Yorkshire has felt able to keep him around longer than expected. Newton's little windfall came from giving Yorkshire advice on its international business and property activities, a role he performed from his resignation as a director until last November. Mr Newton was also, along with the departing chairman Sir Gordon Jones, the recipient of some silverware worth £5,071 as a parting gift. A reminder of happy times, perhaps?

● A RASH of missing persons at Salomon Brothers sparked an in-house investigation. Where were key staff sliding off to at odd times of the day? Investigators narrowed it down to a cappuccino bar on Victoria Station, below their palatial Victoria Plaza offices. They offered the owner of the bar a trading pitch in-house. He, foolishly, refused. So Salomon, in true free market style, invited in their own cappuccino vendor and trolley, installed it in the lobby and undercut the competition. They were late heard of doing 800 cups a day at £1 each, which beats bond trading for a living. I suppose.



"A good start to business. The phone's been ringing all day, asking me why I left WH Smith"



Team spirit

EVERYONE seems to be jumping on the sport and business bandwagon, alas. But the new specialist Sports Group started by Ashurst Morris Crisp, the City law firm, has the advantage that its members each have some link to sport. The team is led by Roger Finbow, a director of Ipswich Town Football Club, and boasts a genuine star in Jonny Searle, winner of a rowing gold at the Barcelona Olympics. The team also includes Tim O'Gorman, the former Derbyshire fast bowler; Logan Nair, who has just retired from the first XV of London Scottish; and Greg Campbell, who represented Northern Ireland as a junior runner. Tony Banks — I still find it difficult to think of him as a government minister — is

visiting Ashurst next week to give a talk. Let's hope he's not intimidated.

● AN UNEXPECTED outbreak of humour at Toyota, the largest Japanese car maker? The company has suggested it might like to join the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, a move welcomed by the US car industry with all the enthusiasm that the US Navy reserved for the attack on Pearl Harbor. As Hiroshi Okuda, president of Toyota, must know, the trade association threw out Honda and Volvo five years ago, changing the rules to restrict membership to the big three US makers. Toyota says inscrutably that it built 686,000 cars on American soil last year and bought \$6.5 billion of parts from US suppliers.

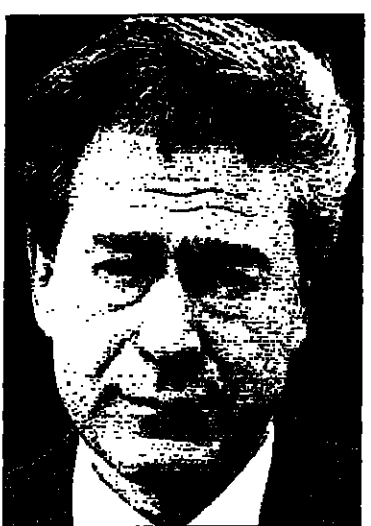
Chinese walls

DISCRETION and timing are the hallmarks of a successful banker. So I am pleased to report that Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest, has decided to forgo the hardship of a visit to Hong Kong for the handover celebrations. I am told he feels it more appropriate to stay at home and deal with some more local difficulties. Reassuring investors such as Mercury, the Prudential, M&G and Standard Life and explaining plans to turn around the fortunes of NatWest Markets, as well as those of the bank as a whole, should be much more exciting.

Bitter brew

THE ill-conceived assault on the Co-op has prompted suggestions that it might revive merger talks between the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Co-operative Retail Society, the two bodies that dominate the movement. But they seem riven over co-ops. The CWS has, we know, piously cleared its shelves. However, the CRS comments: "We believe our customers should be free to make an informed choice about the products they buy."

MARTIN WALLER



Banks the Minister for Sport will be in good company when he talks to Sports Group

BUSINESS LETTERS

Students' gain

From Mr M. Goldstein

Sir, I read the disparaging comment of your City Editor on Mr Sugar travelling the country to speak to schoolchildren. As chairman of governors of King Solomon High School in Redbridge Mr Sugar has brought his considerable energy, commitment and intelligence to helping to develop, support and promote our new state-aided school.

Our students gain a great deal from the interest shown by the business community. It is to the detriment of the economic health of the nation that more business and City leaders are not involved in their local primary and high schools. Gordon Brown could not have picked a more suitable candidate.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN,
10 Meadow Way,
Chigwell, Essex.

Direct answer

From Mr D. Grubb

Sir, There is a solution to the problem of late payment of business accounts which does not involve the cumbersome and uncertain charging of interest on overdue accounts (Your Own Business, May 20).

It is the extension of the direct debit system of collections. Legislation would be required to ensure that all businesses requiring credit would have to offer direct debit as a means of payment. Once purchase terms have been agreed, payment can be received and made "bang on time". Safeguards would be required but this should not be beyond the wit of the banking system.

Yours faithfully,
D GRUBB
(Director),
Circassian Ltd,
85 Leigh Street,
Sheffield.

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commission n. as in European 1 what we must be at the heart of 2 what we must be at the throat of (see Eurosceptics) 3 fee paid to an agent.

brussels n. 1 vegetable which children are not prepared to swallow 2 capital of the EU (concept Eurosceptics are not prepared to swallow) 3 location of specialist EU and competition law practice.

lobby n. 1 place where MP's throw things esp. tantrums, comments etc. 2 endeavour to influence politicians and civil servants to promote a particular viewpoint.

advocacy n. 1 sickness caused by excessive consumption of Dutch egg-yolk liqueur 2 skill of pleading a case orally in court 3 support for a cause.

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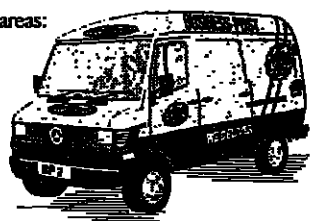
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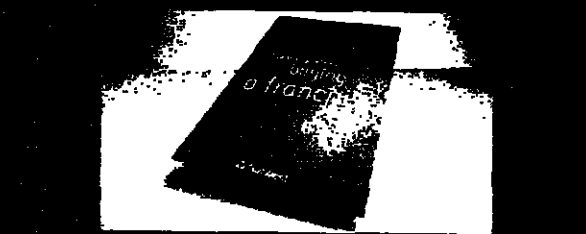
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Franchising makes strong recovery from recession blues

By RODNEY HOBSON

FRANCHISING is back to business as usual after the recession, declares Peter Stern, head of the franchising section of National Westminster Bank.

His words are borne out by bookings by exhibitors at this year's franchising exhibitions. CII, organiser of the northern event at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester on Friday and Saturday, says that it has 55 stands booked. If it can attract any more, it will have to expand the space allocated for the event.

CII's previous exhibition, at Wembley, London, in April, attracted more than 10,000 visitors. The target for Manchester is 5,000 to 6,000.

Fiona Somerton-Edwards, marketing manager, says: "We have marketed the show nationally and we aim to bring in

visitors from the Midlands and the South West as well as the North and Scotland."

Exhibitors will include Wimpy, Kall Kwik, Humana, Greenalls Inns and Signs Express.

October's exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, is on track to beat last year when there were a record 200 exhibitors and more than 12,000 visitors. Already 175 have signed up, including two big newcomers, Håagen-Dazs Cafés and Bang & Olufsen, the hi-fi specialist.

All the major high street banks will be present from October 3 to 5. So will McDonald's Restaurants, Red Star Parcels, Printpoint and DynoRod. The organiser is Miller Freeman.

Visitors who use a credit card to buy a ticket in advance will be included in a draw for an

"introduction to franchising" weekend.

CII is organising the all-Ireland franchising exhibition in Dublin on November 7 and 8. Exhibitors will include Domino's Pizza.

Banks are showing an increased interest in the franchising sector, which consistently records a lower failure rate than stand-alone businesses.

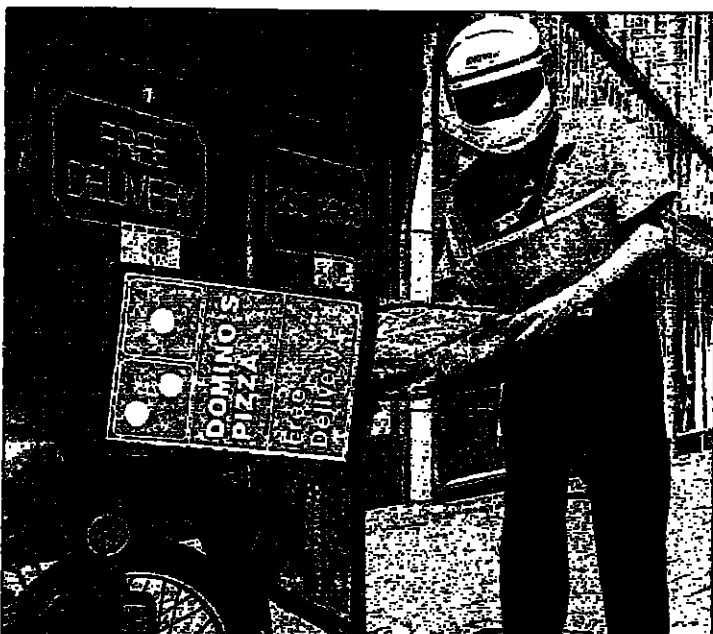
Mr Stern has been in his post for 15 years and he believes that a banking industry with a wide spread of expertise in franchising will help to maintain the success rate. He says: "We are not policemen. That is not our role. But if all the banks are involved, we can spot the doubtful cases."

Barclays, which, with NatWest, was a leader in franchising in the early Eighties, is again taking a higher profile. Richard Cracknell, national franchising co-ordinator for the past three years, says that Barclays has not cooled in its attitude to franchising, although he accepts that this has been the perception in the sector.

He says: "We have always seen it as a sector worth supporting. One of my roles is to reconstitute Barclays as a leading bank within franchising."

Mr Cracknell has been talking to franchisers and franchisees. He says: "They all wanted contact with a local relationship manager, not necessarily a franchising specialist but one who was business-orientated and was comfortable with a balance sheet."

□ The Franchise Business, a firm of consultants based in Dorset, has set up an Internet site to provide free information on the UK franchise market. It provides background information on franchising in addition to details of more than 90 large franchises. The site is at <http://www.lds.co.uk/franchise>.



Domino's Pizza is one of the franchise firms seeking recruits

Call for self-starters with flair

KALL KWIK, the printing and design company, and Securicor Omega Express, the couriers, are looking for franchisees.

Kall Kwik will be using the Manchester franchising exhibition at the weekend to launch a drive for 50 new franchisees over the next five years to take its complement to 250. However, Nigel Toplis, mar-

keting and franchise sales director, says that candidates will go through a tough selection process.

New centre owners will be expected to conduct a marketing "walk-out" in their area, introducing themselves to local businesses. They will then be required to build up a database and to conduct a direct mailing campaign

alongside public relations activities and advertising.

Mr Toplis says: "Business is drawn from solid marketing activities. Although we are located in the high street, business does not just walk through the front door."

Securicor Omega Express tried a year-long pilot project in London, Bristol, Horndean and High Wycombe before deciding to seek franchisees nationwide. The four centres were chosen because they were areas with high earnings potential.

The scheme is being extended to branches in other well-populated areas. Prospective franchisees will pay £500 to become a franchisee and the package will include uniform and a training programme at the Omega Express training centre at Leicester. Payment will be according to the number of collections and deliveries.

Clare Stewart on a designer who made the best of the recession



Peter Geldard with the garden office that is now in demand — in Britain and abroad — by customers of his seven-employee company

Roots of a successful housing plan were nurtured in DIY garden shed

The recession in the early 1990s proved to be both the end and a new beginning for the designer Peter Geldard. The end because two of the interior design businesses of which he was a director closed as a result of a slump in the housing and retail market. The beginning because a new business emerged. After the closures, Mr Geldard, of Kingsgate, near Broadstairs, Kent, began to work freelance, using a bedroom in his home. The limitations of this improvised office forced him to look for an alternative and he moved into the garden.

Unable to find any ready-made buildings that suited him, Mr Geldard built a workshop in the garden "which was really a glorified shed". He recalls: "I moved in my drawing board and computer and started working there. It was wonderful and I immediately realised the benefits."

It was not perfect, but the impact of having a well-designed office in the garden sowed the seed of an idea. "I felt very strongly that there was a market for such buildings," he says.

Starting from the basis that the houses had to be built to housing

standard, be secure and transportable and last for at least 50 years, he approached the Department of Trade and Industry for help in raising development funds and was awarded an Innovation Grant of £6,700.

"It was very hard work getting the grant," says Mr Geldard. However, once the project was under way, the DTI was very helpful and he was later able to apply for start-up funds under Regional Selective Assistance. This brought a grant of £40,000, which was 15 per cent of his £40,000 start-up costs. The rest was found with family help and a bank overdraft.

The Garden House company now employs seven people and all the buildings are designed and made at the business's workshops in a converted Kent barn. "It was always in my own mind that I would manufacture everything in order to have total control over the quality," says Mr Geldard.

It would also have been difficult, he says, to find one company able to meet all the requirements to make the traditional-style timber-framed houses, most of which are made to individual, rather than standard, specification. The Garden House caters for the top

end of the market, with its buildings ranging in price from £9,000 to £16,000 on average.

The pitched-roof, weather-boarded buildings are designed to be transported almost anywhere and, if necessary, moved again. All the parts can be carried through a door, and the building is complete with heating, lights and even a kitchen or a bathroom — can be built on site in a matter of days, Mr Geldard says.

The buildings were originally designed to fill a gap in the market for an attractive home office built to a high standard — one of the first he built is now a studio for Mr Geldard's wife, Ruth, who is an artist and illustrator. But he says that less than half the business at present is providing garden houses for people working from home.

Instead, the houses, which rarely require planning permission, are popular as an extra family room, as music rooms or to provide extra accommodation. The houses can also be adapted for an elderly or disabled person.

The Garden House's diverse customer list includes writers and a university professor who want-

ed somewhere to house his books — all five tonnes of them — which required a specially strengthened floor to be added.

Advertising and recommendation are the main means of promotion for the business. In addition to meeting increasing demand from UK customers, Mr Geldard is considering new markets. "I am looking at northern Europe as we are getting a lot of inquiries from countries such as Holland, Germany, Belgium and France."

Now in its third year, the business is seeing cash flow and profits moving ahead of forecasts, says Mr Geldard, and he expects to expand, including taking on extra staff. However, having experienced the recession, he is understandably cautious about expanding the business too rapidly.

Developing a new company is demanding and risky, but Mr Geldard enjoys the challenge. "It is the first time running my own business, and I much prefer working for myself," he says. "The motivation is more intense and the decision-making less painful because it is just me."

□ The Garden House: 01843 869910, fax 01843 602014

Value of woman's touch

FRANCHISERS could be missing valuable opportunities because they discriminate against women, according to evidence collated by Lloyds Bank. When the bank asked franchisees whether they preferred particular sections of the business community as franchisees, it found that twice as many targeted males compared with those trying to recruit women.

The discrimination does not disappear with experience — the longer the franchise had been running, the greater the gap. Mark Hatcliffe, head of franchising at Lloyds, said: "One of the biggest problems faced by franchisers is finding suitable recruits. From our knowledge of the small business sector, we know that gender has no bearing on the success of most ventures and franchisers could be missing opportunities."

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BRIEFINGS

A new guide to help small businesses to develop sales and marketing skills has been published by Griffin Credit Services, part of the HSBC group. Griffin is running a series of seminars next month in conjunction with the British Chambers of Commerce and the Institute of Direct Marketing. For copies of *How to Grow Your Sales* and details of the seminars call 0800 343435.

□ Norwich and Peterborough Insurance Brokers has launched a business insurance plan for small hotels and guest houses. Details from 01223 352421.

□ Membership of the Federation of Small Businesses has exceeded 100,000 for the first time.

□ Some 50 growing companies in Surrey will be helped to become more competitive through innovation, and 20 will have up to ten days of consultancy from the Teaching Company Directorate and Oxford Innovation. The project is funded by the EU and Surrey County Council.

□ American Express is launching its first commercial retail insurance package — the Business Protection Plan — designed specifically for the 50,000 independent retailers and restaurants in the UK. The new service will be available from June 30.

premier award will be about £1,000, with two other awards of about £500 each. Details: 0181-905 8100.

□ Grants are again on offer under a scheme introduced last year to encourage multimedia use to improve business performance, especially among small and medium-sized companies. Consortiums of multimedia suppliers and users are being invited to enter a competition for the Department of Trade and Industry's Multimedia Demonstrator Programme awards. To qualify, consortiums must show significant improvement in performance through using the technology. The closing date is August 29. For further information call 0945 152000.

□ Free factsheets on how small and medium-sized companies can improve export competitiveness have been produced by Lloyds Bank with Willis Corroon Credit, the British International Freight Association and Coopers & Lybrand. Subjects covered by the factsheets, called *International Business — The Inside Track*, include insurance and European VAT. Call 0117 923 3881.

□ The pay of women managers increased 7.4 per cent this year, while that of male managers rose 6 per cent. The average female manager is 37 and earns £31,550 after 11 years in the organisation. The average male manager is 44 and earns £35,761 after 17 years there. The *National Management Salaries Survey* from the Institute of Management and Remuneration Economics shows that the average female director is 40, has been with her company eight years and earns £71,126, a 9.2 per cent increase. Her male colleague is 48, has been there 14 years and earns £91,957, a 7.8 per cent increase.

Revenue's new regime not all bad

THE Inland Revenue may do small businesses a favour if it rigorously enforces the rules on self-assessment, according to one small business adviser (Rodney Hobson writes).

Forcing businesses to record all financial transactions will save many from going to the wall, the adviser believes. Peter Robinson, who is based at Oldham, says: "It has been found that the high failure rate of the small business sector is due to lack of financial control."

Owners may learn the financial state of their business only when they receive their annual profit and loss statement from the accountant. Mr Robinson says: "This means the business is virtually running out of financial control for a whole year."

Details of which owner-managers need to be aware include monthly sales and purchase figures, the amount and percentage of profits, expenses, how much money they owe suppliers and how much is owed by customers. Owners can then work out their current financial position, detecting difficulties before they become big problems.



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LAW

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The lawyers' watchdogs

Frances Gibb looks at new moves to see that the legal profession polices itself properly

The way the legal profession handles complaints about itself from the public is something of a running sore for the profession. Its history of dealing with them is littered with casualties and criticisms. In recent months though, both the Bar and Law Society have made a fresh stab at improving the service.

The Bar has appointed its first Complaints Commissioner, Michael Scott, to head a new complaints system directed at the public rather than being just an internal disciplinary procedure. And the Law Society has scrapped the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, and put in its place a restructured Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS).

The watchdog of the way the two professions deal with complaints is Michael Barnes, the Legal Services Ombudsman. Last week, after five years in the post, he published his final annual report. He leaves on an optimistic note. "For the first time for some years," he says, "there is now real hope that dissatisfaction with the way complaints about lawyers are dealt with can be reduced."

The OSS, launched last September under Peter Ross, is still struggling with a complaints backlog. Each of 70 case workers has 300 open files, and complaints can take months to process. But Mr Barnes praises its more user-friendly approach; it looks and sounds, he says, more like an organisation that is there to help people who have problems with their solicitors.

But he highlights two areas where the OSS must improve on the record of the ill-fated complaints bureau if it is to succeed. First, it must not find reasons why it cannot deal with a complaint. The bureau would often seize on the first indication that a complaint fell outside its terms of reference to "boot it into touch", he says. If a complaint concerned negligence (which can only be pursued in the courts) that was often cited as a reason why it could not be investigated. Yet

often complaints had other aspects which the bureau could have handled.

In one case, a woman complained about the solicitors handling her divorce. She criticised "lack of information about costs, incorrect advice and failure to comply with instructions". The bureau told her they could not deal with the matter until the possibility of negligence had been canvassed. Mr Barnes points out that they could well have dealt with it: the chief gripe was over costs, but the bureau failed to find out whether the firm had met the Law Society's written standards on costs.

Secondly, the office must be

a "stronger champion" of the rulebook and take a tougher line in enforcing matters of professional conduct. There is little point in the society drawing up 700 pages of highly detailed guidance if the complaints body is to interpret it freely, he says. In one case, solicitors took instructions from two clients on the same day to act against each other in a dispute over a debt. A week later the solicitors realised the situation and informed client Y that they could not act for him. He complained that they had acquired relevant knowledge of his firm and should not act for client X either. The bureau took no action. Mr

Barnes says that the case should be reconsidered. The rules require the solicitors to obtain Y's consent to act for X and there was no suggestion they had done so. "If a disciplinary body starts to countenance technical breaches or allows flexible interpretation of its rules," he says, "that is a slippery slope which inevitably leads to a decline in standards."

For the first time, the Bar's new system, launched in April, allows people to claim compensation for "shoddy work" by barristers. In limited circumstances, they may be awarded compensation of up to £2,000. Barristers can be ordered to reduce, refund or waive fees. A lay Complaints Commissioner, Michael Scott, has been appointed to oversee the system. But barristers will retain immunity over work done in court itself, as with negligence suits.

The new system, Mr Barnes says, is a "big step forward" although the Bar still lags behind the Law Society in the role it gives lay representatives when complaints involving poor service are involved. The new system should, in the longer term, change barristers' perceptions of complaints — they are not always "bad



Commissioner Michael Scott; watchdog Michael Barnes, and Peter Ross of the OSS

TALES OF WOE

● Complaints to the Legal Services Ombudsman in 1996 totalled 1,855, 11 per cent down on 1995. The total is just under 10 per cent of the total number of complaints made to the professional bodies.

● Of a total of 2,273 cases either finished, pending or awaiting a final report in 1996, 2,083 concerned complaints against solicitors, 187 barristers and three licensed conveyancers.

● The ombudsman has made 321 recommendations, of which 194 involved compensation to be paid and in 127 cases the complaint to be reconsidered. In 90 cases, no recommendation was made, but the professional bodies were criticised.

● In 1996 27 per cent of reports were issued in six months, but 59 per cent took six to 12 months and 14 per cent more than a year.

More dirty tricks

THE contest for the Law Society presidency looks like matching the last one for dirty tricks and mud-slinging. The big question at the society's Chancery Lane headquarters is: who leaked the document showing that the Phillip Sycamore camp canvassed the idea of using inquiry agents to "gather information", such as whether Martin Mears and his team had practising certificates?

It is all highly embarrassing for the society staff. A spokesman says: "We had been hoping for a quiet campaign. All I can say is that we do not condone dirty tricks."

And debate still rages over who exactly comprise "the old guard" — the group everyone claiming to lead the society disowns. If length of service has anything to do with it, a study of the current candidates shows that the Mears team (Mears, David Keating, David Savage) notches up 20 years on the council and the Sycamore-Michael Mathews-Robert Sayer team notches up 11 years.

City joy?

FIRST REACTION in the City to Mears's candidacy is that it is "good news" because it will force the silent majority of City lawyers to turn out to vote.

William King, outgoing Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company and a Macfarlanes partner, approves both the recent indemnity fund increase (see page 39) and the Mears candidacy. He says: "Both invite the profession to take notice. Both will ensure that the City does not stand idly by any longer."

He urges City solicitors to vote. "The point is not the management of the indemnity fund," he says, "but the management of law firms that pile up the claims, which leads to increased premiums. The profession must address those who cut corners, don't recognise problems or issues, or simply mismanage their workloads."

Wise heads

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by embarking on an advertising campaign that highlights the potentially huge costs of litigation. Clearly confident that its 17-partner litigation department is a cut above the rest, the firm is running ads that boast: "The energy and enthusiasm most firms will offer you is of little benefit without a clear sense of purpose and direction."

The ads feature cartoons depicting what can go wrong if you pick the wrong lawyer. They show headless chickens running around an office with the caption: "Tim began to fear the worst the moment he entered the lawyer's office."

IT manners

CONTEXT, the electronic legal publisher, is fed up with the "can't learn, won't learn" attitude of many lawyers to technology.

Michelle Green of Context told *Legal Technology Insider* magazine: "I mean senior members of the Bar shouting and swearing at staff."

Often, the fault lies with the user's hardware, but because

few lawyers, especially barristers, are prepared to learn about IT, they blame the last application they were using.

Time, Ms Green says, for the Bar Council and Law Society to introduce IT foundation courses. Perhaps they should also teach basic manners.

● Bindmans, the London civil rights firm, now has an office in east Devon. Charlie Hopkins, the leading environmental lawyer, has left Leigh Day & Co to become a consultant at Bindmans as a telecottager — one who uses fax machines and e-mail to work from home, in his case, just outside Axminster.

Bejeaned lawyers

THE New York office of Brobeck Phleger & Harrison now allows its lawyers to wear casual clothes every day.

But there has been some dissension, reports partner Richard Plumbbridge. "There have been," he says, "certain partners who say it is the end of Western civilisation as we know it."

The lawyers can wear "business casual" clothes on every day except Friday when, shock horror, jeans are allowed.

SCRIVENOR

Reforms would help frightened witnesses

A fundamental principle of the English law of criminal evidence is the hearsay rule which says that, subject to certain exceptions, a witness must give evidence at a trial in person. This means that a statement made before trial by a prospective witness may not be used in evidence: the witness must give evidence in person. The reason is that unless a witness is cross-examined, the fact-finders will be less able to decide whether the witness is telling the truth.

The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice recommended that hearsay evidence should be more freely admitted and suggests that the Law Commission should look at the issue. Last week, after extensive consultation, we produced our report. In making our recommendations, we sought to ensure that the accused receives a fair trial, while rationalising and simplifying the hearsay rule.

The report makes recommendations on a range of issues including computer evidence, the circumstances in which a witness's evidence can be admitted at trial without the witness having to testify. This issue may arise where the witness is dead, ill, abroad, has disappeared, or is simply too frightened to testify.

An increasing problem in the administration of justice is that many prospective witnesses are too frightened to testify or, after they have started to give evidence, to finish, but it may not be possible for the witness's evidence to be admitted in any other way.

The present law on this question is unsatisfactory.

First, a statement made by a frightened witness after the event is inadmissible if it was not made to a police officer or someone who investigates offences or charges offenders. This is a major concern in rape prosecutions because frequently the victim tells a doctor, social worker, friend or relative what happened. We recommend that if a witness is too frightened to testify then the witness's statement should, subject to the court's discretion, be admissible, whether it was made to a police officer or someone else.

Secondly, it is not clear who counts as a "frightened witness". Obviously someone threatened with physical harm counts, but what if the witness fears that his business will suffer if he gives evidence? We seek to ensure that the courts interpret the word "fear" widely, and then admit the statement, if this is in the interests of justice.

Another problem is the uncertainty over whether the "frightened witness" exception can apply where the witness does not finish giving evidence because of fear. We make it clear that in those circumstances the frightened witness exception can apply. We recommend that questions of admissibility of evi-

dence — such as whether the statement of a frightened witness will be admitted — should be resolved at a pre-trial stage where possible.

As offshoot of the hearsay rule is the rule that the fact-finders can only consider what the witness says in the witness box, and so statements made by a witness before the trial, to the police for example, cannot be used to supplement the witness's testimony, and no evidence can be given about those previous statements. There are exceptions to the rule but they are complicated.

There is much to be said for the argument that the first statement made by, say, a rape victim, is likely to be at least as accurate as any later statement, and we had this in mind when we drew up our recommendations. A problem with the current law is that where the issue at trial is *identity*, the witness cannot at present refer to a previous statement which describes or identifies the attacker. Under our recommendations the original description or identification would be read to the court provided the witness states in the witness box that it was true.

Where a witness does not, and cannot reasonably be expected to, remember the matter well enough to be able to give oral evidence about it, the witness cannot at present rely on the previous statement. This makes giving evidence a memory test. We propose that the witness will be able to rely on the previous statement, provided that when it was made the witness believed it to be true and the facts were fresh in his or her memory.

The proposals apply to both prosecution and defence witnesses. To ensure a fair trial, we recommend extra safeguards for the party against whom evidence is given: a party would have the right to attack the truthfulness of an absent witness as if the witness had testified in person; the judge would warn the jury about the weaknesses of hearsay evidence, and there would have to be an acquittal if the case against the accused depended wholly or partly on hearsay evidence which was so unconvincing that, considering its importance to the case, a conviction would be unsafe. These safeguards come on top of the existing discretion a court has to exclude prosecution evidence if it would be unfair to admit it.

All in all, we believe the reforms would bring the hearsay rule up to date. We also believe that they would be of value to frightened witnesses as well as to victims of sexual offences, because they would abolish many of the technicalities which prevent a witness's full evidence being heard and appraised.

● Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Hearsay and Related Topics (1997). Law Commission No 245, available from The Stationery Office (£18.20) and <http://www.ginet.gov.uk/lawcom/homepage.htm>

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The ideal candidate will have 2-4 years' experience of either securities or derivatives gained within private practice or in-house. This hybrid/commercial role encompasses working closely with the trading and structuring desks for emerging markets, structured credit and tax driven products. Responsibilities involve reviewing term sheets offered by the bank including structured notes, asset backed transactions and default swaps. Naturally the ability to integrate in a trading floor environment, which at times means operating in high pressure situations, is a prerequisite. Consequently strong interpersonal and numeracy skills are essential. This is a first class opportunity to work in the front office of a successful and burgeoning global financial institution where the financial and professional rewards are amongst the best.

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High profile International engineering company seeks a junior company/commercial lawyer with between 1 and 2 years' ppe to join a small hands on team based in Central London. As well as excellent mainstream company/commercial experience from the City, you will have an outgoing personality and have a flexible approach prepared to turn your hand to a broad range of legal issues. Excellent first time in-house move. Ref: TC40398

IT/CORPORATE

International hi-tech company seeks IT and corporate lawyers with between 4-8 years' ppe with strong international backgrounds. Individuals will have robust outgoing personalities and be used to dealing with heavy-weight project work. Strong established department where the international prospects are excellent. Ref: TC40645

OIL & GAS

American oil company with an established presence in the UK seeks an oil and gas lawyer with between 3 and 5 years' ppe to be based in London. At the junior and relevant upstream experience is pre-requisite, at the senior end mainstream company/commercial experience will be considered if the right individual has an inherent interest in the energy sector. Ref: TC40409

To £40k + Bens

High profile International engineering company seeks a junior company/commercial lawyer with between 1 and 2 years' ppe to join a small hands on team based in Central London. As well as excellent mainstream company/commercial experience from the City, you will have an outgoing personality and have a flexible approach prepared to turn your hand to a broad range of legal issues. Excellent first time in-house move. Ref: TC40398

To £Excellent

International hi-tech company seeks IT and corporate lawyers with between 4-8 years' ppe with strong international backgrounds. Individuals will have robust outgoing personalities and be used to dealing with heavy-weight project work. Strong established department where the international prospects are excellent. Ref: TC40645

To £Competitive + Bens

American oil company with an established presence in the UK seeks an oil and gas lawyer with between 3 and 5 years' ppe to be based in London. At the junior and relevant upstream experience is pre-requisite, at the senior end mainstream company/commercial experience will be considered if the right individual has an inherent interest in the energy sector. Ref: TC40409

SENIOR IP/IT

Major household name with a large in-house legal department seeks a senior IP/IT lawyer with at least 4 years' ppe to join this specialist team. Work ranges from managing trade mark portfolios, copyright issues, IP aspects of product development and litigation as well as outsourcing procurement and software licensing. Excellent in-house opportunity based in South London, will consider both a private practice or industry background. Ref: TC38324

JUNIOR FINANCE

For fast finance house seeks to recruit a further junior lawyer for their European operation based in Central London. With between 0-2 years' ppe individuals will have top City firm training. Work will be mainly transaction management capital markets although some general company/commercial work will also form part of the role. Close link team and high calibre work. Ref: TC11838

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£Top Notch

For fast finance house seeks to recruit a further junior lawyer for their European operation based in Central London. With between 0-2 years' ppe individuals will have top City firm training. Work will be mainly transaction management capital markets although some general company/commercial work will also form part of the role. Close link team and high calibre work. Ref: TC11838

To £35k + Bens

American oil company with an established presence in the UK seeks an oil and gas lawyer with between 3 and 5 years' ppe to be based in London. At the junior and relevant upstream experience is pre-requisite, at the senior end mainstream company/commercial experience will be considered if the right individual has an inherent interest in the energy sector. Ref: TC40409

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington or Michelle McGee (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6042 (0171-357 0912 or 0171-792 0475 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-431 6394.

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ENERGY PROJECTS

This successful and profitable London firm has made a virtue of concentrating on and expanding niche areas. Its high profile energy practice continues to grow and is now looking to recruit further oil, gas and project lawyers. Ideally between 2 and 7 years' qualified, either from private practice or industry, who can offer both commercial and technical legal skills. (Ref:10075)

CORPORATE FINANCE

Widely-admired medium-sized City firm continues to climb the list of recommended advisers, having played a lead role in many of the recent high profile deals. As a result, work levels remain unrelenting and have led to the need to recruit a first rate 3-4 year qualified corporate finance solicitor. Ideal candidates should be looking to join a firm able to offer high quality work in a refreshingly relaxed and friendly environment. (Ref:3345)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

This uniquely successful medium-sized City firm continues to expand its commercial property department, and is now looking for a property lawyer at around 3-5 years' qualified with sufficient technical expertise and ability to cope with an impressive range of work. A genuine opportunity to be involved in development, investment, retail and projects on behalf of household name clients in an ambitious but civilised environment. (Ref:9057)

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Our client is an organisation at the forefront of developments in the multimedia industry, particularly cable and telecoms. They seek a 1-2 year qualified solicitor with commercial/competition experience and a knowledge of European regulatory affairs. Will be based in London, liaising closely with the Commission, influencing changes in the regulatory framework at the very highest level. Extremely proactive position. (Ref:5239)

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Please contact Nicholas Robbins on 0171 417 1400 (evenings/weekends 0171 736 8563) or write to him at Garfield Robbins, Royce House, Aldermanbury Square, London EC2V 7HR. Confidential fax: 0171 417 1444 EMail: nick@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

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Corporate Tax

Top 5 firm, with unrivalled reputation in tax, has openings for assistants qualified 0-4 years; outstanding quality of work and career opportunity. Ref: 21272 - Philip Boynton

Commercial Property

Small/medium-sized West End firm - with a superb reputation, practice and client-base - requires property assistant qualified 1-3 years. Ref: 33815 - Philip Boynton

IP/IT

Major City firm, with rapidly-developing IP/IT practice, offers exceptional opportunity for specialist with 4-6 years' ppe and non-contentious bias. Ref: 35709 - Philip Boynton

Corporate - US Firm

Arguably the most successful US firm in London seeks co/co assistants admitted 2-5 years; big-firm quality + small-firm atmosphere; top salary. Ref: 5087 - Philip Boynton

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Medium-sized c. London firm, with growing construction practice, has contentious and non-contentious posts at junior/senior assistant levels. Ref: 21545 - Philip Boynton

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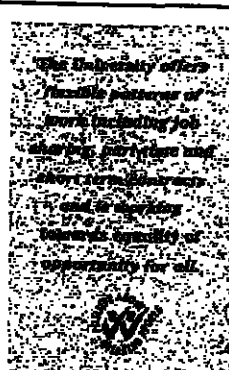
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Opposing views of the crisis at the Law Society over paying insurance against negligence — by two challengers for this year's presidency

Forced to fork out to subsidise the few

When I was President of the Law Society, I was constantly at loggerheads with the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund. Indeed, its chairman complained publicly that "Mr Mears has a thing about SIF". He was right. I do. And with reason.

SIF has just announced that it has underestimated claims liabilities for past years to the tune of £458 million. To find this vast sum, the Law Society Council has been told it should increase premiums by 80 per cent. At this rate, a firm with a bad claims record and gross fees of, say, £1.5 million, would see its annual premium increased from £115,248 to £207,462. Even with a "standard" record, the same firm would pay £103,731 instead of its previous £57,624.

Who (if anyone) should be held responsible for new burdens that will be enough to put some firms out of business? Tony Girding, the President of the Law Society, has said: "The profession must look at the mite in its own eye." This, it seems, is to be the orthodox response. We are all guilty: since we are told, underwriting is not an exact science.

This much is true. But are there good underwriters and bad underwriters? A good underwriter calculates risks accurately and makes money for his company. A bad one is liable to put his company into liquidation. Even SIF accepts there were black claims clouds on the horizon and that these should have been noticed earlier than they were.

SIF, of course, is a mutual fund that provides professional indemnity cover for all law

firms. The cover is compulsory and solicitors cannot seek insurance elsewhere.

How, in fact, has SIF operated? While I was Law Society President, I received a stream of complaints. Thin cats like the criminal lawyers asked why they should be paying heavy contributions when their work was virtually risk-free. Fat cats like the large city firms pointed out they could get the SIF level of cover for less than half the premiums.

It seemed an odd kind of mutual fund that satisfied none of its members. But wait! There were indeed beneficiaries. If it had not been for the conveyancing and related claims that have emerged over the past ten years, there would be no shortfall.

The mutual fund, in short, has not been working mutually at all. The majority of its members find themselves in a club where they are compelled to subsidise the subscriptions and bar bills of the minority.

It is not only conveyancing that is subsidised. We learn, for instance, that 450 firms attract the 100 per cent claims loading. These few firms have cost the fund some 10.5 times more than they have paid in. These are the firms with the mite in their eye. They should be contrasted with the 3,033 practices which qualify for the maximum no claims discount and which will shun the "We Are All Guilty" thesis.

Where do we go from here? If we are to retain a mutual



Martin Mears: "Why do we need a compulsory fund?"

fund, it has to be a fund that is seen by the majority of its members to be operating fairly. This means premiums need to be calculated and apportioned in a far more sophisticated manner.

Why should the fund be compulsory? To this question one hears some extraordinary answers. The first is that if membership were not mandatory, no one would join the club. The second is that it provides a haven for firms whose claims records are so

bad they could not obtain insurance elsewhere. Neither deserves a reply. What is to be done? If the main problem is conveyancing claims, it is wrong to think that these emerge only from a few incompetents or bad eggs. They are generated by 4,650 practices and last year they cost SIF £140 million.

SIF could simply raise conveyancing firms' premiums. But that would put some firms out of business and induce others to go even further down the fool's road of price-cutting. Better remedies must be found. One would be based on recognising that if firms are forced to undertake conveyancing at uneconomic rates, they are likely to cut corners. There are two possible solutions. The first I urged consistently during my presidency: SIF should not insure cut-price conveyancing. If that is said to be protectionist, then conveyancing should be insured on a premium-per-transaction basis. That would enable conveyancers to gauge the real cost of the job and adjust their fees accordingly.

Both these solutions would address the central problem, the financial instability of so many high street firms. Both were rubbish in the past and, no doubt, they will be rubbish again. But I have yet to hear any alternatives.

MARTIN MEARS

Time for a fresh deal based on fairness

As solicitors, we provide a unique guarantee to our clients. We all agree on a mutual basis that any legitimate claim arising from solicitors' work will be met to the tune of up to £1 million. There is no other profession in this country and no legal profession in the world that offers its clients so full an indemnity. But there is a price to pay for this unrivalled protection.

The shortfall in our indemnity fund contributions for earlier years has come as a bitter blow to the profession. I do not inhabit some ivory tower in Chancery Lane. As a practitioner in a three-partner provincial firm, I feel the pain every bit as much as my colleagues. I am now standing for election as President of the Law Society, with Michael Mathews and Robert Sayer as vice-presidents. We are a new breed of council members. We will bring a fresh approach to this major challenge. The first responsibility of leadership is to find a clear way forward.

My priority is to reassure our clients that there will be no weakening of our profession's commitment to meet fair claims with fair settlements. I assure the many people whom solicitors serve that our fund is strong and will continue to meet proper claims payments. Claims arise only in a tiny minority of the huge number of cases and transactions in which we advise our clients.

My first step has been to establish a high-level task force to report urgently on practical measures to help law firms threatened by unprecedented rate increases. This task force has begun its work.

Fairness is the watchword. I am determined that we shall find the fairest means to meet the drastic call we face to top up the indemnity fund and meet the greatly increased forecasts of ultimate claims liabilities.

Fairness also demands that there is an independent inquiry into the causes of the need for the sudden hike. Whatever arrangements we make for the future, every solicitor wants to know why we are faced with this situation, and every solicitor wants a guarantee that this will not happen again. But an independent inquiry is needed, not a witch-hunt. It is easy in the face of such a crisis of confidence to attack and to blame. What is really important is to learn from the crisis and to restore fairness.

The Law Society must explore the fairest way of allocating the catch-up across the profession. The shortfall occurred in past years — before I was in office and before many current solicitors were in practice. We must not rush to judgment on the right way to raise the shortfall fairly.

There would be many anomalies if present rules were applied in allocating the shortfall. Let me give one example. The system of no claims bonuses and claims loadings works only when claims are paid (not when they arise). For those firms that have learnt from past mistakes, claims may require payment long after the firms have implemented claims prevention



Phillip Sycamore: "My priority is to reassure clients"

measures. There would be a double retrospective penalty if the shortfall was collected on the existing basis. This would not be fair.

The starting point for us all must be to face up to the actuary's advice on what should be collected for 1997-98. We must not allow ourselves

to repeat the mistakes of the past by under-collecting again.

The allocation of the shortfall is fundamental to achieving fairness. The problem will not go away but I urge

the council not to start collecting any shortfall in 1997-98. There is a steep enough increase to collect the right level for this period. The council must do much more work to find the fairest way of collecting the shortfall.

Abolishing and attacking the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund as a kneejerk reaction is no answer. SIF did not create the

claims. Commercial insurers would need to collect just as much — plus their profit on top. Enough damage has already been done to high street solicitors' firms by the conveyancing market. There is a real danger that the insurance market could drive them out of business.

Michael Mathews, Robert Sayer and I will look into drawing up a new deal for all firms, large and small, and finding new ways to cover conveyancing. We are holding a seminar on July 11 in London to which we have invited all solicitors, so they can hear independent experts and contribute their own ideas.

In a lifetime practising law it is possible to make the occasional mistake. But I am determined to bring to the Law Society Council proposals for ensuring that good solicitors no longer end up paying for the bad, the persistently negligent and the unrepentantly incompetent solicitors.

PHILLIP SYCAMORE

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CAPITAL MARKETS

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A major investment bank is looking for a capital markets lawyer at senior associate level. This is to manage a small team of lawyers to ensure effective legal and compliance controls within the division. The role will involve managing all advice given to the division and will include advising and approving transactions in relation to all new products, advising the documentation group on contents of master documentation, and providing advice to swaps, EMG, financing and futures groups. This is a high profile role which will require strong legal skills combined with a proactive approach. Ref: T00448.E

CONSTRUCTION

3 Years+
to £Partnership

This is a City firm that enjoys a very good reputation in this field of the law. Work is both non-contentious and contentious. Much of the work stems from a blue-chip property client base and recent work includes advising developers on the construction of shopping centres, hotels and offices. The department also handles major road and rail work. Very pleasant team with positive "can do" attitude. Ref: T7402.G

BANKING

3 to 5 Years Qualified
Leading City firm with a banking department of 11 partners and 20 assistants requires an assistant with an interest in one or other of the following areas: project finance, secured lending, capital markets, regulatory work, aircraft finance or property finance. The department handles all aspects of domestic and international banking work. Premium salary package and prospects discussed. Ref: T7298C

PROJECT FINANCE

2 to 4 Years Qualified
to £95,000

A major New York firm with a significant presence in London is seeking junior project finance lawyers. It is particularly interested in those with a general corporate or banking background who have had some exposure to project work and wish to specialise in this area. There are currently five partners handling this type of work in the office including highly regarded experts in this field. The firm pays New York salaries, therefore rewards are extremely high. In addition to this, the firm offers a pleasant office environment with a high profile caseload, but without undue pressure. Ref: T00353.E

HONG KONG - CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION

1 to 4 Years Qualified
to HK\$ Ex Pat

The Hong Kong office of this leading City firm is currently seeking a construction lawyer to undertake a wide ranging contentious caseload, involving building, engineering and property disputes. An outgoing and energetic individual is required for this office, and candidates should have experience in high level construction litigation. Ref: T00429J

INVESTMENT BANK

3 Yrs + Qualified
to £70,000 + Banking Bens

Top international investment bank seeks high calibre capital markets expert for transaction management department. The successful applicant will head up a small legal team to manage the non-market execution process. Experience of bonds is essential as well as a general capital markets background. Experience of arranging MTN programmes is an advantage. This is a challenging and responsible position within a bank outside the mainstream legal department. Ref: U050.H

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

1 to 4 Years Qualified
to £50,000

High profile West End practice is seeking a commercial property lawyer with a least 1 year post qualification experience, to undertake commercial property work that is considerably and more varied and interesting than the average City based property role. Clients will include media, retail and developers, and the role will involve considerable investment, acquisition and development work. Superb working environment and excellent location. Ref: T00255J

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Fina, in addition to providing a first class workload, seeks to build long term business careers for its lawyers. This career development includes a rotational system in which the successful candidate will have the opportunity to move into both legal and non-legal roles either in the UK or overseas.

Applications are invited from lawyers at well-recognised law firms who have 2-3 years commercial experience. Candidates should display a strong business sense and leadership qualities and will enjoy the challenge of operating in a fast moving commercial environment. In return, and in addition to the outstanding career development, Fina, which is located within easy reach of central London, offers a highly competitive remuneration package.



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- be a motivated self-starter
- expect direct client contact
- have an excellent academic record, and
- have strong interpersonal skills.

The positions are:

Aviation Lawyer - 1 to 3 years PQE

Applicants are likely to be from another leading law firm, have experience of complex transactional work and will have, or be willing to develop skills in: aircraft finance, commercial law, EU and UK aviation regulation and competition law. An interest in the aviation industry is a pre-requisite. Fluency in a second major European language, particularly French, would be an advantage.

Litigation Lawyer - NQ to 1 year PQE

A broad range of commercial experience is required, as is a background with another leading firm with a recognised litigation practice.


Property Lawyer - 1 to 2 years PQE

A property lawyer is sought with the technical ability and personality to handle mainstream and leisure related commercial property work for a broad range of clients.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please send your CV with a covering letter to Dermot Scully (Aviation), Samantha Phillips (Litigation) or Alan Patten (Property). Applicants should apply in person and not through agencies.

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TO ORDER



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Investors validly assigned their claims to compensation scheme

Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd v West Bromwich Building Society and Others

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde [Speeches June 19]

Upon the true construction of the Investors Compensation Scheme claim form, and in particular section 3(b), all claims for damages and compensation had been validly assigned to the ICS and such claims could not be maintained by the investors in their actions but could be validly maintained by the ICS.

The investors retained the right to claim rescission of their mortgages upon such terms as the court might consider just, as such a right was unassignable as a chose in action.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the ICS against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Sullivan, Lord Justice Mummery) (The Times October 10, 1996) which occurred in the result, although on different grounds, of a decision by Mr Justice Evans-Lombe (The Times October 10, 1996) on a preliminary issue that the rights of action of the Alford and Armitage investors against the West Bromwich Building Society (WBBS) had not been validly assigned to the ICS.

Section 3(b) of the claim form provides: "ICS agrees that the following claims shall not be treated as a 'Third Party Claim'... for the purpose of this agreement and the benefits of such claim shall ensure to you absolutely: Any claim (whether sounding in rescission for undue influence or otherwise) that you have or may have against the WBBS in which you claim an abatement of sums which you would otherwise have to repay to

the society in respect of sums borrowed by you from that society in connection with the transaction and dealings giving rise to the claim..."

Section 3 provided: "I/we hereby assign absolutely to ICS each and every Third Party Claim and the benefit thereof."

Mr Geoffrey Voss, QC, Mr Denis Brock, solicitor, and Mr Guy Morpus for the ICS; Mr David Oliver, QC, Mr Andrew Hochhauser, QC and Mr Vernon Flynn for WBBS; Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Mark Cannan, Hopkins & Sons, representative of some defendant solicitors; Mr Nicholas Strauss, QC and Mr Neil Kitchen for the Alford plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Strauss, QC and Mr Neil Kitchen for the Armitage plaintiffs.

LORD HOFFMANN said that the claims arose from home owners, mainly elderly retired people, who had been advised by financial advisers to enter into schemes whereby they mortgaged their homes to secure advances at enhanced rates of interest which they mainly invested in equity linked bonds. The subsequent fall in equities and house prices and the rise in interest rates had caused the owners severe losses.

The investors had claims against the financial advisers as well as possible claims against the building societies and the solicitors who had acted in connection with the mortgages.

The investors claimed compensation from the ICS by completing the claim form, which the ICS met in part.

ICS commenced proceedings against WBBS and a large number of firms of solicitors who had acted for investors. A number of investors known as the Alford plaintiffs and the Armitage plaintiffs had also commenced separate proceedings against WBBS for rescission

of the mortgages and damages. Mr Justice Evans-Lombe therefore directed preliminary issues on the question of whether ICS or the investors had the title to sue WBBS for damages.

On the construction of section 3(b) of the claim form Mr Justice Evans-Lombe had focused on the words "any claim (whether sounding in rescission for undue influence or otherwise) that you have against the... society in which you claim an abatement of sums which you would otherwise have to repay to the society..."

According to ordinary rules of syntax "any claim" was the antecedent of "that you have" and the words "or otherwise" in the adjectival parenthesis meant that it did not limit the breadth of "any claim". It followed that claims of any description were reserved as long as they amounted to claims for an "abatement" of what was owing to the society.

There were various ways in which the amount owing might be abated but one would be on account of a set-off against the society's liability for damages, thus the syntax of the words following "any claim" pointed to a wide meaning of "abatement" which included the effect of cross-claims.

The judge then turned to the background against which the language in the claim form had been used. Two features seemed to him to be odd. First the building societies and the solicitors were the only solvent parties against which the investors were likely to have any claim and the building societies would certainly be the prime target.

One might expect that ICS having paid compensation to the investor would take over his claim against the building society. If not, the investor might be over-compensated. Other provisions seemed to assume that ICS would do the suing and account to the investor for the net recovery in

excess of compensation paid. But there was no provision for the investor having to pay anything back to the society.

Second, the parenthesis seemed very strange against the background of the law. If it was exhaustive, why was "sounding in rescission for undue influence" singled out? What about rescission on other grounds or claims for breach of statutory or common law duty? It was rather like providing in a lease of a flat that a tenant should not keep "any pets (whether neutered Persian cats or otherwise)". Something seemed to have gone wrong.

The judge therefore concluded that the wider construction of "any claim" and "abatement" led to a "ridiculous commercial result" which the parties to the claim forms were quite unlikely to have intended and that it was clear that "the drafting of the second paragraph of section 3(b) was mistaken".

He concluded that the meaning intended by the parties was that the investor should retain any claim for an abatement of his debt which arose out of a claim for rescission whether for undue influence or otherwise.

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Leggatt said that the judge's interpretation was "not an available meaning of the words". "Any claim (whether sounding in rescission for undue influence or otherwise)" could not mean "Any claim sounding in rescission (whether for undue influence or otherwise)" and that was that. He was unimpressed by the alleged commercial nonsense of the alternative construction.

His Lordship preferred the approach of the judge. He did not think that the fundamental change which had overtaken the principles by which contractual documents were nowadays construed, particularly as a result of the speeches of Lord Wilberforce in

Prenn v Simmonds ([1971] 1 WLR 1381, [1984] 1386) and *Reardon Smith Line Ltd v Yagut Hansen-Tzanak* ([1976] 1 WLR 989) was always sufficiently appreciated.

The result had been (subject to the important exception of excluding from the admissible background the previous negotiations of the parties and their declarations of subjective intent) to assimilate the way in which such documents were interpreted by judges to the common sense principles by which any serious utterance would be interpreted in ordinary life.

If one applied that approach, it seemed the judge had to be right. His Lordship, however, added four points supplemental to those of the judge.

First, the claim form was obviously intended to be read by lawyers and the explanatory note, which was a model of clarity, by laymen. It was the terms of the claim form which governed the legal relationship between the parties.

But in construing the form one should start with the assumption that a layman who read the explanatory note and did not venture into the claim form itself was being given an accurate account of the effect of the transaction.

It was therefore significant that paragraph 4 of the note said categorically and without qualification that the investor gave up all his rights against anyone else and transferred them to ICS. If the effect was that the investor retained his claim against the building society, paragraph 4 of the note was very misleading.

Second, that led to the conclusion that section 3(b) was intended only to deal with the possibility that a lawyer might argue that some right was a "claim" when it would not be regarded as a claim by a layman. That was a fair description of the possibility of a

reduction of the mortgage debt as part of the equitable taking of accounts upon rescission, which would not result in the investor receiving any money but merely having to pay less to WBBS.

Third, any lawyer would think it extremely odd for ICS to take an assignment of the investor's claim for damages against the solicitors and leave the investor with a claim for the same damages against WBBS. He would be likely to wonder whether that was conceptually possible and his doubts would be well founded. The investor and ICS could not between them recover more than the loss which the investor had actually suffered.

Fourth, no lawyer in his right mind who intended simply to say that all claims against WBBS were reserved to the investor would have used the phrase "any claim". Nor, unless he intended to limit the reservation to the amount, if any, which happened to be outstanding on the mortgage would he have described them as "claims" in which you claim an abatement of the sums which you would otherwise have to repay."

The next question was whether, given the reservation of rights in section 3(b) the assignment of claims to compensation and damages against WBBS was valid. The judge and the Court of Appeal thought they were not. Mr Justice Evans-Lombe said that the fundamental problem was that one could assign a chose in action but not a particular remedy by which the chose in action was enforced.

However, it was important to notice that a claim to rescission was a right of action but could in no way be described as a chose in action or part of a chose in action. It was a claim to be relieved of a mortgage and such a claim could be made only by the owner of the mortgaged property.

The owner could not assign a right to rescission separately from his property because it would make no sense to acquire a right to have someone else's property relieved of a mortgage.

Likewise the possibility of an abatement of the debt as part of the process of rescission was not a chose in action which could be assigned. It was simply part of the process of rescission which was a right attached to the ownership of the house itself.

It could therefore be seen that in reserving to the investor any claim to an abatement of the mortgage debt consequent upon rescission, section 3(b) was not cutting down the scope of the chose in action which had been assigned to ICS. The possibility of an abatement could never have formed part of that chose in action and could never have been assigned separately from the house itself.

As the instant case showed, a right of action such as a claim for rescission of a mortgage might be unassignable as a chose in action, but there was no reason why the parties could not agree that the investor was to be accountable to ICS for all or part of the improvement in his financial position as a result of exercising his right to rescission.

The words "the benefits of such claim shall ensure to you absolutely" in section 3(b) showed that the draftsman's concern was with accountability for benefits. He wanted to make it clear that the investor would not be accountable for benefits derived from a claim for rescission.

But the language he used referred to the extent of the assignment for which purpose the exception in section 3(b) was unnecessary. Hence all the litigation, if you said something which was unnecessary people suspected that you had to mean something else.

However, there was one thing which section 3(b) was not and

could not be and that was a reservation of a remedy which would ordinarily form part of a chose in action assigned to ICS.

It was of course true that there were other links between the claim for damages and the claim for rescission. The facts giving rise to liability would have a great deal in common so that if both claims were being made, by ICS in the one case and the investor in the other, it would be sensible to try both cases together.

In addition the damages recoverable by ICS as assignee might be affected by whether or not the mortgage had been rescinded. If there had been no rescission the damages might be calculated on the basis that the transaction had involved the investor in liability to pay a high rate of interest. If there had been rescission the damages would be on the footing that the investor had only had to pay a reasonable rate.

The fact that the exercise by the investor of a right to rescission might affect the quantum of the damages recoverable by virtue of the assignment to ICS did not, however, mean that the investor had been empowered to assign different remedies in respect of the same chose in action.

What was assigned was the right to damages, whatever the quantum might be. It was not unusual for the quantum of damages to be affected by other proceedings which the person injured might bring, whether against a person liable for damages or someone else.

Lord Goff, Lord Hope and Lord Clyde agreed and Lord Lloyd delivered a judgment dissenting on the construction of section 3(b) of the claim form.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Everaert, Birmingham; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Barnett Sampson; J. Keith Park & Co. St Helens.

Council must disclose structural defects

Payne and Another v Barnet London Borough Council
Before Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Waller [Judgment May 22]

A local authority landlord serving notice of purchase price on a tenant wishing to exercise his right to buy was obliged to give notice, among other things, of any relevant structural defect known to it. But for the requirements in the Housing Act 1985, the ordinary principles of caveat emptor applied. The court would not intervene to impose wider obligations of disclosure.

A tenant therefore was obliged to satisfy himself, whether by solicitor's inquiries and searches or by commissioning a survey, about the condition of the premises he was to acquire.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal for other reasons by Cary Payne against an order of Miss Marion Simmons, QC, sitting as an assistant recorder in Wiltshire County Court on May 3, 1996 striking out his action for damages against Barnet Borough Council as not properly arguable. Debra Woodland, his ex-wife, was joined as second plaintiff with the court's leave.

In 1988 the Paynes served notice on the council to exercise a right to buy their flat and the council served notice of the purchase price pursuant to section 125 of the Housing Act. They subsequently purchased a 125-year leasehold interest.

They disputed whether the council had fulfilled its duty under section 125(4A) of the Housing Act 1985, as inserted by section 24 of the Housing and Planning Act 1986, to tell them of structural defects.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC and Mr Martin Seawright for the appellants; Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Jonathan Manning for the council.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, giving the judgment of the court, said that in the statutory scheme Parliament had imposed certain obligations which the landlord had to perform if a tenant served a notice requiring him to grant a 125-year lease at a low rent of the property he occupied.

But for those statutory requirements, the ordinary principles of caveat emptor would apply, and it would be the obligation of the tenant to satisfy himself, whether by his solicitor's inquiries and searches or by commissioning his own survey, about the condition of the premises he was to acquire.

It was quite clear that as the scheme evolved Parliament decided to impose on the landlord a greater obligation than would otherwise have existed to tell the tenant in advance about four matters: normal service charges, improvements, ordinary external repairs and structural defects.

It was clear that the tenant was to receive advance notice of his likely liability during the reference period in relation to his liability to

make good such defects known to the landlord.

The parliamentary history showed that section 125(4A) originated from a mere drafting alteration.

Although the new section undoubtedly had the effect of imposing on the landlord an unqualified obligation to give notice of any relevant structural defect known to him, whether or not he wished to recover from the tenant any part of the cost of putting it right, it was hard to discern a change in the normal relationship between the parties prior to the grant of a long lease.

It was also clear in their Lordships' judgment that the courts should not import into the statutory scheme any common law duty of care which did not previously exist in the present context.

The relationship between landlord and tenant or between vendor and purchaser of a long leasehold interest had never been treated as giving rise to the kind of special relationship discussed in the House of Lords: see *Caparo Industries plc v Dickman* ([1990] 2 AC 413); *White Jones* ([1992] 2 AC 413); *Spring v Guardian Assurance plc* ([1995] 2 AC 296).

It was not appropriate for the courts to intervene in a delicately constructed statutory scheme by imposing new obligations where none previously existed.

In *X (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council* ([1995] 2 AC 633) Lord Browne-Wilkinson had emphasised that the answer to any

question as to whether a common law duty existed, and if so what its ambit, must be profoundly influenced by the statutory framework within which the acts complained of were done, and the present case was no exception. The House's judgment, an excellent example of what he had in mind.

In *Blake v Barking and Dagenham LBC* ([1996] EGCS 145) Mr Justice Douglas Brown had held that it was not just or reasonable to impose a duty of care on a local authority in connection with its statement of its opinion as to price in a section 125 notice. That was another good example of the court's reluctance to upset the balance of the relationships created by the new statutory scheme.

Parliament had required a landlord to tell a tenant of any structural defects, meaning defects affecting the structure which required making good as opposed to ordinary items of repair or maintenance.

The purposes of sections 125A to 125C of the 1985 Act, as inserted by section 4 of the 1986 Act, was to enable the tenant to identify his maximum potential liability for the charges or contributions mentioned in those sections, neither more nor less than his actual obligation of disclosure. The tenant like any other purchaser of an interest in land, had to carry out his own searches and inquiries in the usual way.

Solicitors: Hodge Jones & Allen, Camden Town; Mr Graeme Creer, Barnet.

Enforcing restraint of trade covenants

Dawney Day & Co Ltd and Another v D'Alphen and Others
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward [Judgment May 22]

The categories of cases in which covenants in restraint of trade were enforceable were neither rigid nor exclusive.

Such covenants were enforceable when the covenantee had a legitimate interest of whatever kind to protect and when they were no wider than was necessary to protect that interest.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments, inter alia, dismissing an appeal by three defendants, Frederic De Braconier, Patrick John-Pierre Johnston and Sally Ann Parkman, experienced managers in the European bond-broking business, from the judgment of Mr Justice Robert Walker (The Times February 24) holding that contractual anti-competition and anti-solicitation covenants given by the defendants to the plaintiffs, Dawney Day & Co Ltd, a company carrying on a joint venture with the defendants, and Wilcourt Investments Ltd, a subsidiary of it, were enforceable.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC, for the defendants; Mr Anthony Grabner, QC and Mr Richard Hill for the plaintiffs; the other defendants, Cantor Fitzgerald International

and Dawney Day Securities Ltd, were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the plaintiffs were investment bankers. In 1992 the defendants had left their former employers, Euro Suisse Securities Ltd, to establish a new joint venture business with the plaintiffs.

That venture involved the creation of a jointly owned company, Dawney Day Securities Ltd (DDS), by whom the defendants were employed and of which they became directors. They had now moved on from DDS to the fourth defendants, Cantor Fitzgerald International.

In November 1996 they gave three months notice to terminate their employment with DDS. The plaintiffs issued the proceedings claiming to enforce, inter alia, contractual undertakings by the defendants contained in clause 9 of the 1992 joint venture agreement not to compete with the business of DDS, not to solicit business from the customers of DDS and not to solicit or entice away members of the staff of DDS for the period of one year from February 1997, the date when their employment ended.

The defendants contended that the undertakings were void and unenforceable against them as being an unlawful restraint of trade.

The first and principal issue was whether the plaintiffs were able to enforce the covenants against com-

petition and solicitation of customers.

The defendants' submission was that the plaintiffs had no legitimate or lawful interest in enforcing the covenants in the circumstances: the plaintiffs, it was said, were no more than investors in and creators of the business which was owned and carried on by DDS.

Did a joint-venturer, who was not a partner, have a sufficient interest to be permitted to enforce anti-competition and anti-solicitation covenants against his fellow joint venturer, when the business was to be developed and carried on by a jointly owned company?

It was not the law that such covenants could never be upheld outside the established categories of vendor/purchaser of a business and master/servant cases.

The House of Lords so held in *Esso Petroleum Co Ltd v Harper's Garage (Stourport) Ltd* ([1968] AC 269).

Far from confining the circumstances in which covenants in restraint of trade could be enforced to certain categories of case, and defining those categories strictly, the courts had moved in the opposite direction.

The established categories were not rigid and they were not exclusive. Rather the covenant could be enforced when the covenantee had a legitimate interest, of whatever kind, to protect, and when the covenant was no wider than was necessary to protect that interest.

The fact, therefore, that the plaintiffs were neither the purchasers of a business from the defendants nor their employers, did not mean the covenants could not be enforced.

The judge, rejecting the defendants' submission that the plaintiffs could not establish an interest which the law protected, had concluded that the plaintiffs "did have a sufficient legitimate interest of a proprietary nature to entitle them to seek protection in the form of restrictive covenants".

Neither the judge's approach nor his conclusion could be faulted. When the agreement was entered into, the joint venture company had not yet been formed. Each party depended on the other's proposed contribution for the development of the business which they had set out jointly to create.

The agreement gave the plaintiffs a clear commercial interest in safeguarding themselves against competition from the defendants, individually or collectively, for the agreed period.

Moreover, the judge was correct to describe the plaintiffs' interest as an interest "of a proprietary nature" entitled to protection, where and to the extent that protection was reasonably necessary: see *Chitty on Contracts* (27th edition [1994] volume 1, paragraph 16-075).

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Ward agreed.

Solicitors: Olswang, Paddington; Hobson Audley Hopkins & Wood.

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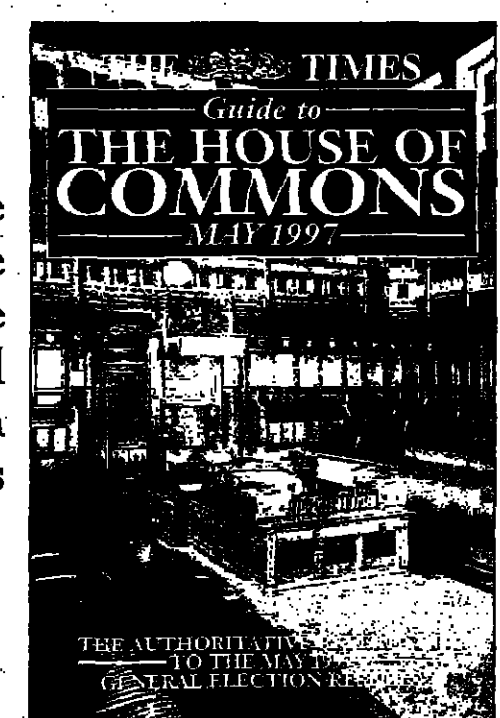
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In re O (a Minor) (Child abduction: Custody rights)
Before Mr Justice Cazalet [Judgment March 5]

The exercise of full parental responsibility over a substantial period of time could give rise to joint rights of custody within the terms of article 3 of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 1980 (Cmd 8281) even though there was no agreement or court order in place.

Furthermore, under the inherent jurisdiction the court had discretion to order the summary return of a child to its habitual country of residence if satisfied that it was in the child's best interests for the child for further investigations to be made there.

Mr Justice Cazalet so held in the Family Division in a reserved judgment in chambers, reported with leave, when ordering the summary return of a child under article 3 of the 1980 Convention, set out in Schedule 1 to the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, and under the inherent jurisdiction of the court, following wrongful removal in breach of rights of custody.

Mr Henry Scright for the

applicant grandparents; Mr Paul Hollow for the defendant mother and partner.

MR JUSTICE CAZALET said that the use of the word "may" in the last paragraph of article 3 of the 1980 Convention meant that rights of custody were not solely confined to the specific situations set out in article 3 but that the court could step beyond them, as it had done in *In re B (a Minor) (Abduction)* ([1994] 2 FLR 249).

In that case Lord Justice Waite had said that the test to be applied by the courts of the requested state in establishing joint rights of custody was whether, on the facts of each case, individual concerned was exercising functions of a parental or custodial nature without the benefit of any official custodial status and that it was for the court to determine whether those functions fell to be regarded as "rights of custody" within the terms of the 1980 Convention.

Here, the child had been born in Germany in 1992 and had lived there all her life until brought to England by the German mother and her partner, who was English, in December 1996.

She had in fact been living with her maternal grandparents since

mid-1995 and before that had spent long periods with them because there had been concerns about the mother's parenting ability. The grandparents had started custody proceedings in Germany, obtaining an interim custody order there shortly after the child had been brought to England.

Although it was not possible to conclude from the facts that an agreement had been reached between the parties that the grandparents should have full custodial rights, nevertheless, on the facts, there had clearly established joint rights of custody within Lord Justice Waite's definition.

Furthermore, under the inherent jurisdiction, the court had a discretion to order the summary return of a child to the country of habitual residence if satisfied that it would be in the child's best interests for further welfare investigations to take place in that country.

Here the connections with Germany were so overwhelming that it was clearly appropriate for her to be returned there forthwith for an expedited hearing to determine her long-term future.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Roger Terrell & Co, Peterborough.

Enforcing part of contract

Marshall v NM Financial Management Ltd
Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Thorpe [Judgment March 13]

A party who had been freed from an invalid restraint of trade in an employment contract could enforce the remainder of the contract provided that the invalid element had not constituted the real or main consideration for the contract.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, NM Financial Management, against a decision of Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, ([1995] 1 WLR 1461) that the defendant, Anthony Arthur Marshall, was entitled to renewal commission under his contract of employment even though a proviso to the payment of such commission was an unlawful re-

straint of trade.

Mr Andrew Lemon for the plaintiff; Mr David Garland for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the test had been variously described in the cases. The contract would be upheld unless the invalid restraint formed the real or main consideration for the whole or substantially the whole of the contract for the promise, per Lord Justice Denning in *Bennett v Bennett* ([1952] 1 KB 249, 261).

It was doubtful whether there was any real difference between those different formulations so long as it was recognised (i) that the avoidance of the contract was not limited to the case where the only consideration for the promise, apart from the invalid restraint, was a technical or nominal consideration and (ii) that the court did not attempt to assess the relative values of the various considerations for the promise.

His Lordship preferred the

formulation expressed by Lord Justice Denning since it appeared to put the point of balance in the right place.

The contract would be upheld even if the consideration for the promise included an invalid restraint. It would be struck down in its entirety only if in substance and regardless of its form it was an agreement for an invalid restraint.

The question was one of substance not form. The substance of a contract was to be ascertained from its words and the parties were at liberty to allocate different considerations to different promises. The structure and language of the contract were therefore of prime importance. That was so provided that the parties did not attempt to disguise their true intentions by artificial stratagems.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Taylor Johnson Garrett, Swerlands, Dorking.

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RUGBY UNION

Free State certain to provide Lions with test of resolve

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DURBAN

THE management of the British Isles faces the hardest week of its trek round South Africa as the tour's imperatives ebb and flow. Originally, the eight days embracing games against three Super 12 provinces were viewed with the greatest suspicion, but, with the Lions winning the first international last Saturday, they must now prepare for the inevitable backlash.

That will come first in Bloemfontein today, when the Lions, under the captaincy of Nigel Redman, play Free State in a match that will be more demanding than the midweek encounter with Gauteng. Then, they must brace themselves for the onslaught in the second international, at King's Park here on Saturday, when South Africa must win to keep the series alive.

"The game in Bloemfontein is like an additional test match for us," Ian McGeechan, the coach, said, "and, in the light of the events of the past couple of weeks, Free State will be very keen to put one over us."

Not too much should be read into Free State's seventh placing in the Super 12 tourna-

ment. Critics here believe them to be one of the most competitive teams in the country, though, like their peers elsewhere, they will be short of their international players.

Os du Randt and Naka Drostke, from the front row, Andre Venter, from the back row, and Werner Swanepoel, the reserve scrum half, are with the South Africa squad that arrived in Durban last night, while Chris Badenhorst, the wing who toured Great Britain in 1994, is injured. Still, though, they field international centres in

TEAMS

FREE STATE: M. Smith, J. Ham van Wyk, H. Muller, D. Groenewald, C. Macas, W. Meyer, L. van der Horst, D. Oosterman, B. Ek, J. Coetzee.

BRITISH ISLES XV: T. Stimpson (Newcastle and England), J. Bentley (Newcastle and Wales), D. Underwood (Leicester), J. Underwood (Newcastle and England), M. Catt (Bath and England), G. Rowntree (Leicester and England), B. Williams (Richmond and Wales), D. Young (Cardiff and Wales), R. Williams (Northampton and Scotland), N. Redman (Ireland and England), S. Shaw (Worcestershire and England), N. Back (Leicester and England), E. Miller (Leicester and Ireland).

Referee: J. Kaplan (Natal)

England turn to Lions with change of plan

ENGLAND will take their strongest available squad to Australia for the international in Sydney on July 12, with invitations going to each of their 21 representatives on the British Isles tour of South Africa (David Hands writes). That represents a change of plan, since it was originally thought that the bulk of the squad would be drawn from the party which toured Argentina, with only ten Lions offering reinforcements.

Whether every Lion will leave South Africa for Sydney on July 7, two days after the third international with the Springboks, remains to be seen. Martin Johnson, the captain, wants to consult a specialist over a long-standing groin strain to see whether an operation is necessary, while Jeremy Guscott became a father for the third time shortly after the Lions tour began.

Of the players who ended the five nations' championship against Wales, Jon Sleightholme is omitted and Will Carling has retired.

Sleightholme, the Bath wing, ends an unbroken run of 12 appearances, being superseded by John Bentley, whose form for the Lions has been illuminating. Bentley's last (of two) England appearance was in 1988, also in Australia.

Only six members of the Argentina tour party — Phil de Glanville, Adebayo Adebayo, Alex King, Darren Garforth, Phil Greening and Ben Clarke — will travel to Australia and there will be immense personal satisfaction for such players as Matt Dawson and Neil Back that they have forced their way into contention by the quality of their displays in South Africa.

ENGLAND PARTY: Backs: T. Stimpson (Newcastle), N. Back (Leicester), J. Bentley (Newcastle), A. Adebayo (Bath), P. de Glanville (Bath), J. Underwood (Leicester), J. Underwood (Newcastle and England), M. Catt (Bath), G. Rowntree (Leicester and England), B. Williams (Richmond and Wales), D. Young (Cardiff and Wales), R. Williams (Northampton and Scotland), N. Redman (Ireland and England), S. Shaw (Worcestershire and England), N. Back (Leicester and England), E. Miller (Leicester and Ireland).

Braden Venter and Heldard Muller, while Johan Erasmus has been released from the national squad to play in the back row.

The significant aspect is the attitude that the Lions take into the match. Despite victory on Saturday, none of them accepts that there remains nothing further to play for in personal terms, which was the crippling defect of the 1993 Lions in New Zealand.

The mutual support of this tour party has been one of its strongest characteristics, a fact recognised by Redman, who, at 32, never thought to be a Lion until this month and now finds himself midweek captain after a career during which his leadership qualities have been examined only in an England Under-23 side against Spain 12 years ago and on tour in Canada in 1993.

"This tour doesn't finish until after the third test," he said. "People have reacted in an outstanding way as this tour has developed, better than any I have known. The whole tour has been a huge challenge and Tuesday's is the biggest yet. To fly into Bloemfontein, play at altitude against a top side, all in a day, will all help to focus the attention of the players."

Of the chosen XV for the match today, the most disappointed to have missed selection against South Africa may have been Simon Shaw and Eric Miller. Miller is given a further opportunity to play at No 8, his favourite position, and keep the pressure on Tim Rodder for an international place. "Every member of the team had a big game last Saturday, so it will take a monumental effort for anyone to get in," Miller said. "I'll go out and give it my best shot."

Meanwhile, South Africa have delayed until tomorrow the announcement of their side to play the Lions, pending a specialist's report on the shoulder injury to Japie Mulder. Pieter Muller and Justin Swart have been released from the squad, but Percival Montgomery, the young Western Province stand-off half, has been retained, which has given rise to speculation that he could win a first cap with Henry Honiball moving to centre.

Internet details of the Lions tour and reports on all the matches played so far are available at <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

British athletics back on track

David Powell reflects from Munich on the positive response to European Cup success

Roger Black, waiting to depart the airport yesterday, described the triumph of the Great Britain men's team here in the European Cup on Sunday as "the new beginning". Nearby, Robert Hough was trying to wake up — not from a late night celebrating his extraordinary contribution to the team effort, but to the reality that, for this season at least, he will be regarded as a scalp on the international stage.

"To be absolutely honest," Black said, "I did not know Robert. Then, suddenly, we had this guy crossing the line first and he summed the whole thing up. If I was to pinpoint three performances that won the cup, I would say Robert Hough, Mark Sesay and Bob Weir respectively, first in the steeplechase, third in the 800 metres, and second in the discus."

However, it will not be long before European Cup euphoria gives way to world championship ambition. That event, in Athens, is only five weeks ahead, but too much should not be expected of Hough, Sesay and Weir: their prospects may not stretch much beyond reaching finals.

Magnanimously, Black downplayed his own role here and those of Steve Backley, Jonathan Edwards and Linford Christie. "We should be winning," which, of course, he did to promote previously unheralded Britons. Now, though, as Athens beckons, attention will turn to the established names.

Victories at the weekend by Black, Edwards and Backley were encouraging for Athens, as were those by Sally Gunnell and Kelly Holmes. Add to their triumphs the sound form of Denise Lewis, Ashia Hansen and the men's 4x400 metres relay team, and who among British followers can wait?

Black warned against unreasonable expectations, but said that Britain's first European Cup win since 1989 had been "crucial" to public confidence. "There has been a lot of negativity in the past year, with the perception of our Olympic performance, the ups and downs of the [British] federation, and the political side, but this has given us an opportunity for the sport to build a solid foundation," Black said.

Referring to the departure of Peter Radford as chief executive and the hunt for a replacement, Black emphasised that this was "a period



Christie celebrating the triumph in Munich is an image that should live in the memory

of change". He added: "Even if there are political wranglings going on, one thing you can always count on is the athletes training every day."

"We have proved that, though the sport does not, at the moment, have a chief executive, and we have had a few problems with lottery funding, the athletes are performing better than ever. Once we get those things sorted out, we have a positive future."

Quite correctly, Black drew attention to how finely was the men's victory and the women's hard-fought third place. Reebok, at the start of

its four-year deal to supply the Great Britain team kit, and Channel 4, in its first summer of a four-year domestic television contract, have struck lucky. Athletics is back in the big league of British sport after drifting towards the periphery.

Officially, from yesterday, Black is the Great Britain men's team captain, replacing Christie, but his first gesture was to offer to stand down in Athens. Christie repeated here, before the weekend's events, that he would not appear in the world championships, but so powerfully did this team victory tug at his patriotism that nobody

would be surprised if he changed his mind.

One hopes not, because seeing him win two races, holding the trophy, conducting the national anthem from the podium and launching himself among Union Jack waving spectators is how he should be remembered.

Black's gesture, not intended to influence, may do just that. He said that, if Christie changed his mind, he could have the captaincy for Athens. "Linford probably will not run," Black said. "I do not think there is any doubt in his mind, but, if he decides to go, I would not want the captaincy to be an issue."

IN BRIEF

Blundell swoops for first victory

A DRAMATIC surge in the final straight took Mack Blundell, of Great Britain, past Gil de Ferran of Brazil, and on to his first win on the IndyCar motor racing circuit, his margin of victory — 0.0027sec — being the narrowest in the history of the series.

Torrential rain caused havoc on the track at Portland, Oregon, but Blundell, who was denied victory two weeks ago in Detroit after running out of fuel on the final lap, timed his switch to slick tyres to perfection, making up a 30-second deficit on de Ferran over the last ten laps.

Cycling: Rob Hayles, who flew home from the World Cup series in Italy at the weekend with suspected heart trouble, had medical checks yesterday. Hayles, the British national track champion, may await further tests on July 4 before returning to action.

Football: England Under-20s, assured of a place in the knockout stage of the world youth championship in Malaysia, completed their group matches with a 4-0 victory over Mexico yesterday. Michael Owen, of Liverpool, scored the decisive goal in the 65th minute.

Shooting: George Digweed, of East Sussex, three times the world clay pigeon shooting champion, set a world record at the European COMPAK Sporting championship in Le Robert, France, yesterday, hitting the maximum 200 targets.

Bowls: Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, won the British Isles women's singles title for the second year running at Ayr yesterday. Her record third success in the event was sealed by a 25-11 victory over Ann Dainton, of Wales.

Athletics: Paul Edwards, the Great Britain international shot put, yesterday failed in his High Court attempt to get his drugs ban reduced from four to two years.

Equestrianism: Karen Dixor and Too Smart have been added to the long-list for the European three-day event championships at Burghley in September.

Rallying: Colin McRae, of Great Britain, drove his Subaru to victory in the three-day China Rally 97 yesterday.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD BOWL: Barcelona Dragons 38 Rhein Fire 24 (in Barcelona)

ATHLETICS

100M: Henthorn (Team Scotland) 10.55sec; 200M: C. Melick (USA) 21.41; 400M: H. Henthorn (Lancashire) 1.00; 800M: J. Maynard (Belgium) 1.51; 1500M: C. Melick (USA) 3.54; 5000M: C. Melick (USA) 15.22; 10000M: C. Melick (USA) 31.76; 20000M: C. Melick (USA) 63.52; 40000M: C. Melick (USA) 127.04; 80000M: C. Melick (USA) 254.08; 160000M: C. Melick (USA) 508.16; 320000M: C. Melick (USA) 1016.32; 640000M: C. Melick (USA) 2032.64; 1280000M: C. Melick (USA) 4065.28; 2560000M: C. Melick (USA) 8130.56; 5120000M: C. Melick (USA) 16261.12; 10240000M: C. Melick (USA) 32522.24; 20480000M: C. Melick (USA) 65044.48; 40960000M: C. Melick (USA) 130088.96; 81920000M: C. Melick (USA) 260177.92; 163840000M: C. Melick (USA) 520355.84; 327680000M: C. Melick (USA) 1040711.68; 655360000M: C. Melick (USA) 2081423.36; 1310720000M: C. Melick (USA) 4162846.72; 2621440000M: C. Melick (USA) 8325693.44; 5242880000M: C. Melick (USA) 16651386.88; 10485760000M: C. Melick (USA) 33302773.76; 20971520000M: C. 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CRICKET: JUNIOR PARTNER DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM ATHERTON AS ENGLAND BANISH THREAT OF DEFEAT AT LORD'S

Butcher extends his hours of opening

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (final day of five): England drew with Australia

MICHAEL ATHERTON is accustomed to the long walk home but, usually, he has made the journey alone. Yesterday, left as so often before with the task of batting single-mindedly through a day to save his side, the England captain found he had company. And it was just as well.

If Mark Butcher had been held at first slip by Mark Taylor when he had scored only two, Australia might easily have scored an improbable win. But Taylor dropped the catch and Butcher batted on for a further four hours, an innings as important to the destiny of the Ashes as it surely is to the destiny of his career.

England, 136 adrift when Australia somewhat surprisingly declared at start of play, made the game safe through a first-wicket stand of 162. Their 1-0 lead in the series was thus preserved and their unbeaten record extended to seven Tests. Australia, a shade disconsolately, had to settle for their first draw in 19 games.

A draw might seem guaranteed in a Test match restricted to the equivalent of only two days' play but this one was far from preordained. Indeed, such was the speed with which wickets tumbled once Atherton's familiar vigil had ended, the Australians will inevitably wonder if the result would have been different had they taken their early chance.

For the first time this summer, Shane Warne bowled with the old effectiveness. For English eyes, it was an ominous sight. The ball with which he dismissed Butcher spun viciously from outside off stump, a delivery he replicated without reward against a bamboozled Graham Thorpe.

There was consolation for Australia in this, though it may have escaped them in their disappointment last night.

For England, the draw will bring immense relief. Far too often in the past, single, thrilling victories have been followed by immediate regression into disarray. Had they been beaten here, in such unusual and demeaning circumstances, the reclaiming of the Ashes would have suddenly seemed a remote objective.

The first-wicket pairing of Atherton and Butcher is in its infancy and may not have survived it had they been paired prematurely yesterday. Their previous stands had produced eight, 29 and 11, and Butcher, with three failures, not to mention some nightmarish fielding lapses, was

vulnerable. He played like it, too, during a tormented first hour in which heavy, indecisive footwork did not identify a technical problem so much as a state of mind.

Butcher has been out of form. Since scoring 153 for England A at Edgbaston in mid-April he had passed 50 only once. His selection for England, therefore, was based on acknowledged quality rather than on a perusal of the county averages, and he has had to feel his way into Test cricket. He will be around for a while now and he will bat more fluently than he did yesterday, though with no greater resolution.

Taylor's abrupt declaration was doubtless influenced by the rain and muck still dominating the morning skies. Psychologically, he would have been better batting on briefly to extend the lead by a further 30 runs and exaggerate the task confronting England on what had been a capricious night.

As it transpired, the sun shone for much of the day and the pitch eased. There was nothing like the lateral movement so avidly exploited by Glenn McGrath in the first innings and the uneven bounce, though still evident, was tempered by lack of pace. Nobody was more grateful for this than the groundsman, Mick Hunt, whose miserable battle against the elements has been exacerbated by criticism of his work. "Where are those gremlins now?" he asked at lunchtime, his grin restored for the first time in five days.

Paul Reiffel was into his third over and the England team stood at 12 when Butcher pushed indeterminately and the edge flew at an oblique shin height to Taylor, who grabbed at the ball, perhaps sighting it late, and put it down. There were to be many more edges, though no further chances, until the stand was broken 150 runs later.

Atherton was at his most stoical, responding to the demands of the day with an exhibition of technical mastery, his footwork positive, his hands soft and pliable whenever he needed to drop the steeply lifting ball at his feet. Butcher grew in stature simply by being with him.

The key to England's survival was to remain wicketless until lunch. With this achieved, Atherton advanced smartly to 50 and began, perhaps, to think he might belatedly make his first century at Lord's, in his tenth Test on the ground. In the game that saw him set a new England record for captaincy tenure, it would have been a



Reiffel finds the edge of Butcher's bat at Lord's yesterday morning. Taylor, at slip, split the chance and Australia's hopes of winning receded

fitting accolade, but it eluded him. Having dealt firmly with the erratic offerings of Bevan, taken England ahead with a three off Steve Waugh and then greeted the return of Michael Kasprovicz by rocking back to pull for four, Atherton felt curiously. Going back to another short one from Kasprovicz, he trod on his off stump and departed shuffling his head at the replay on the giant screen.

Alec Stewart chose the wrong ball from McGrath to pull and Nasser Hussain drove a return catch to Warne. When Butcher underestimated the leg break, England had lost four wickets for 40 and Australians everywhere were into their "what-if" syndrome. Thorpe and John Crawley, largely untroubled in adding 64, ensured that there would be no sting in the tail.

England: First Innings
M A Taylor b Gough 1 (18min, 15 balls)
M A Butcher c Gough b McGrath 1 (18min, 13 balls)
J A Stewart b McGrath 1 (18min, 13 balls)
N Hussain lbw b McGrath 19 (11min, 73 balls, 2 runs)
G P Thorpe c Blewett b Reiffel 21 (51min, 49 balls, 4 runs)
J P Crawley c Healy b McGrath 1 (11min, 10 balls, 2 runs)
M A Ealham c Elliott b Reiffel 7 (31min, 20 balls, 1 run)
R D B Croft c Healy b McGrath 2 (18min, 13 balls)
D Gough c Healy b McGrath 10 (44min, 23 balls, 2 runs)
A Caddick lbw b McGrath 1 (7min, 5 balls)
D E Maloney not out (20min, 0 balls)
Extras (b 4, nb 5) 9
Total (42.3 overs, 188min) 77
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11 (Atherton 1), 2-12 (Stewart 1), 3-13 (Hussain 1), 4-47 (Hussain 1), 5-56 (Hussain 1), 6-62 (Ealham 1), 7-77 (Caddick 1)
Australia won last

Australia: First Innings
M A Taylor b Gough 1 (18min, 15 balls)
M T G Elliott c Crawley b Caddick 112 (24min, 180 balls, 20 runs)
G S Blewett c Hussain b Croft 45 (30min, 70 balls, 7 runs)
M E Waugh c Malcom b Caddick 33 (31min, 60 balls, 1 run)
S K Warne c Hussain b Gough 0 (5min, 4 balls)
S R Waugh lbw b Caddick 0 (3min, 1 ball)
M G Bevan c Stewart b Caddick 4 (3min, 7 balls, 1 run)
H A Healy not out (44min, 23 balls, 2 runs)
P R Reiffel not out (7min, 6 balls)
Extras (b 1, lb 3) 4
Total (7 dec, 61 overs, 248min) 213
M S Kasprovicz and G D McGrath did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4 (Elliott 3), 2-73 (Elliott 2), 3-147 (Elliott 6), 4-147 (Elliott 6), 5-147 (Elliott 6), 6-159 (Elliott 7), 7-172 (Healy 13)

England: Second Innings
M A Butcher b Warne 87 (257min, 210 balls, 14 runs)
M A Atherton hit wicket b Kasprovicz 77 (222min, 159 balls, 10 runs)
J A Stewart c Kasprovicz b McGrath 19 (22min, 24 balls, 2 runs)
N Hussain c and b Warne 0 (4min, 5 balls)
G P Thorpe not out (30min, 39 balls, 4 runs)
J P Crawley not out (52min, 45 balls, 4 runs)
Extras (b 8, lb 14, w 1, nb 7) 30
Total (4 dec, 79 overs, 320min) 266
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-182 (Butcher 62), 2-189 (Butcher 70), 3-197 (Butcher 84), 4-202 (Thorpe 2)
BOWLING: McGrath 20-3-8-38-8, Reiffel 15-0-17-2, Kasprovicz 5-1-0-0, Warne 2-0-0-0

5-0, 6-0-35-1; Warne 19-4-47-2 (w 1; 4 runs); 10-2-22-0, 1-1-0-0, 8-1-25-2; Bevan 8-1-25-0 (5 runs); 4-0-15-0, 4-1-1-0; S R Waugh 4-0-20-0 (4 runs; one spell).
SCORING NOTES: Fifth day: Lunch: 70-0 (29 overs, 121min); Butcher 24, Atherton 32, Test 160-1 (68 overs, 233min); Butcher 65, Stewart 51.
MATCH AWARD: G D McGrath (adjudicator: I M Chappell).
MATCH DRAWN
THIRD UMPIRE: D J Constant
MATCH REFEREE: R S Madugala (Sri Lanka)
SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Edgbaston): England won by nine wickets. Tests to come: Third (Old Trafford): July 3-7. Fourth (Headingley): July 24-28. Fifth (Trent Bridge): August 7-11. Sixth (The Oval): August 21-25.
LATEST BETTING (William Hill): Series: 8-11 England, 12-5 Australia, 3-1 drawn series.
Compiled by Bill Frindall

West Indies move into dominant position

KINGSTOWN (fourth day of five): West Indies, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 151 runs ahead of Sri Lanka

BRIAN LARA was 88 not out at lunch as West Indies reached 226 for three in their second innings on the fourth day of the second Test match against Sri Lanka in St Vincent.

Lara and Carl Hooper had shared in an unbroken stand of 83 for the third wicket to give West Indies a lead of 151 after Floyd Reifer was dismissed early in the day for 18. Hooper was on 26 at lunch.

Lara, 30 overnight, emerged from an uneasy beginning to dominate and move to within 12 of his tenth Test century. He brought up his fifty by lifting Muttiah Muralitharan, the off-spinner, over mid-on just after the drinks break for his fifth four off his 102nd ball. He added five more boundaries, taking three off Muralitharan in the last over before lunch. He also hit the same bowler for six over long-on.

Lara and Reifer had stretched their third-wicket stand to 51 before Reifer slashed at a wide ball outside off stump from Pushpakumara and gave Kaluwitharana, the wicketkeeper, an easy catch.

However, Kaluwitharana dropped Hooper, then on 12, when he failed to hold on to an edge off Sajeeva de Silva.

WEST INDIES: Second innings
S C Carriker b Pushpakumara 23
S C Williams c Jayasinghe b Muralitharan 48
B C Lara not out 88
F L Reifer c Kaluwitharana 18
C L Hooper not out 26
Extras (b 3, lb 8, nb 4) 15
TOTAL (5 wkts) 226
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62, 2-82, 3-143
BOWLING: S C de Silva 13-1-52-0, Pushpakumara 14-2-52-2, Muralitharan 26-8-71-1, Dharmasena 10-1-30-0
Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D B Coles (New Zealand)

Roebuck turns to leg spin for meeting of county champions

By SIMON WILDE

MORE than a few county professionals will cast an anxious glance at the skies this morning. A continuation of the unsettled weather is the most likely route to an upset in the first round of the NatWest Trophy, with the last resort in the event of a wash-out being the dreaded uncertainty of a bowl-out. Around the country yesterday, discreet practice sessions in bowling at a single stump may have been staged.

If the 16 ties are to be resolved in a more conventional manner, there are no obvious scenes of potential embarrassment, though the five minor counties who play at home may make local knowledge count for something.

Lincolnshire will look forward to the visit of Derbyshire's fragmented ranks to Lincoln Lindum with curiosity and some optimism, but the strongest of the five teams is undoubtedly Devon. Minor county champions for the past three seasons, they entertain

Leicestershire, who won the corresponding prize in the first-class game last year, at Exmouth.

Devon are imaginatively led by Peter Roebuck, who supervised their progress into the semi-finals of the MCC Trophy on Sunday and knows the value of the unorthodox, one-day cricket from his 18 seasons with Somerset. His dolly-mixtures with the ball have served his adopted county well and he is preparing to unleash another "mystery" bowler today in the shape of Stuart McGill, the Australian leg spinner.

In view of his country's shortage of slow bowling, it would not have been a great surprise had McGill been chosen to tour England this summer; in the event, he came anyway to play cricket for Tiverton, for whom he has taken 53 wickets in nine appearances. Overseas players are barred from the Minor Counties championship but may be registered to play in the NatWest Trophy.

"We had thought of travelling the Lancashire Leagues, where there are some very

good players such as Shane Lee and Chris Harris, but traditionally we have gone for someone from our own league," Roebuck said yesterday. "Ideally, we would have chosen a batting all-rounder but Stuart is very keen to play and knows most of the lads. Our side is largely made up of locals."

It can be hard for a leg spinner to stamp his authority on a match in which he is confined to 12 overs, and McGill got "carted" in his one appearance for Devon to date, but he will not be fazed by the challenge. In one of the six first-class matches he has played, he took nine wickets to help a New South Wales XI administer England A with a thrashing in Tamworth last winter.

Devon's recent performances in the 60-overs competition have been creditable. Two years ago they scored 267 against Sussex at Hove, with a century from Pollard, their leading batsman, who was also once of Somerset. The year before that Yorkshire were made to work hard for their win at Exmouth.

Roebuck played in the Somerset side humbled at High Wycombe in 1987 by Buckinghamshire, who today play hosts to Essex at Beaconsfield with another member of that vanquished Somerset team, Neil Burns, as their player-coach.

Buckinghamshire's overseas player is Keith Arthurton, now unwanted by West Indies but scorer of 2,000 runs in his first season for High Wycombe in 1996. Essex are without Gooch, who has rested himself, but they will be in no mood for carelessness after their humiliation in the final last year. Cambridgeshire are at home to Hampshire, and Cumberland to Northamptonshire on their small ground at Barrow.

The World Cup qualifiers, Scotland and Holland, are at Bristol and Worcester respectively. The most hotly contested tie may well be at Lord's, which stages one of only two all first-class encounters, between Middlesex and Kent. At the Oval, Surrey meet Durham.

Fixtures, page 46

FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Batting									
Qualification: six completed innings	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	
1 E T Smith (Cambridge Uru)	6	9	2	614	190	67.71	14		
2 M L Hayden (Hampshire)	6	14	3	899	235	61.72	42		
3 S P James (Gloucestershire)	7	10	1	720	183	61.11	34		
4 M R Ramprakash (Middlesex)	7	11	1	702	145	70.20	34		
5 H Morris (Gloucestershire)	7	10	1	628	233	69.77	22		
6 R D Lloyd (Leicestershire)	7	12	1	740	225	67.27	42		
7 M T G Elliott (Australia)	5	8	0	512	127	64.00	12		
8 G P Thorpe (Surrey)	5	8	1	375	138	62.65	12		
9 S Lehtinen (Nottingham)	5	7	1	688	177	62.63	26		
10 T L Penney (Warwickshire)	7	12	1	370	86	61.66	4		
11 J B Lowe (Durham)	8	13	3	676	210	61.45	22		
12 D L Hogg (Warwickshire)	7	11	1	688	177	61.66	26		
13 S G Law (Essex)	7	10	1	541	118	60.11	14		
14 G A Hick (Nottinghamshire)	7	10	1	482	164	59.50	2		
15 V J Wells (Leicestershire)	7	10	1	743	224	61.07	34		
16 J P Crawley (England)	6	10	1	439	101	54.87	13		
17 A D Brown (Surrey)	4	6	0	326	121	54.33	2		
18 R C Irani (Essex)	7	12	2	485	125	50.66	3		
19 M V Watson (Leicestershire)	9	14	0	515	100	51.33	21		
20 A J Miles (Warwickshire)	6	11	1	409	168	52.11	12		
21 R J Bailey (Northants)	7	12	2	521	117	50.10	22		
22 M W Gatting (Middlesex)	8	11	1	515	100	51.33	21		
23 A J Stewart (Surrey)	6	10	1	404	271	50.50	1		
24 R A Smith (Hampshire)	7	12	4	604	154	50.33	14		
25 V P Coles (Derbyshire)	9	14	4	503	99	50.30			
Doubles not out									
Bowling									
Qualification: ten wickets	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	5W	10W	
1 P R Reiffel (Australia)	60	26	122	11	11.09	3-12	1		
2 P J Newport (Worcestershire)	92.2	30	200	14	14.28	2-37	1		
3 A M Smith (Gloucestershire)	256.4	70	636	21	30.30	1-1			
4 N F Williams (Essex)	51	9	161	10	16.10	5-36	1		
5 J P Hurrell (Middlesex)	228	59	635	37	17.16	6-14	1		
6 D B Brown (Warwickshire)	162.2	41	287	28	17.56	6-108	1		
7 B J Phillips (Kent)	117.5	35	333	18	18.50	5-47	1		
8 G D Ross (Somerset)	235.1	64	522	28	18.64	5-63	1		
9 K D James (Hampshire)	161.1	37	504	27	18.66	8-40	1		
10 D J Miles (Leicestershire)	230.5	45	440	21	19.70	6-61	1		
11 A P Curren (Essex)	206.1	64	550	28	19.58	5-45	1		
12 M V Watson (Leicestershire)	182.2	51	400	20	20.00	4-43	1		
13 A D Donald (Northamptonshire)	101.4	29	212	11	19.27	4-38	1		
14 J P Taylor (Northants)	200.2	48	364	28	19.44	7-87	1		
15 S G Law (Essex)	165.5	67	303	17	21.17	4-44	1		
16 D E Maloney (Derbyshire)	230.5	45	440	21	20.48	6-74	1		
17 M C Roff (Essex)	159.3	50	436	21	20.76	4-82	1		
18 P C Roff (Essex)	165.5	67	303	17	21.17	4-44	1		
19 M R Brown (Worcestershire)	251	66	720	34	21.17	7-75	3		
20 M W Alkome (Gloucestershire)	170.3	52	487	22	22.12	6-64	1		
21 Waqar Younis (Gloucestershire)	122.1	23	636	21	30.30	1-1			
22 J Curren (Leicestershire)	87	18	306	14	21.86	6-64	1		
23 M M Bates (Durham)	133.5	28	295	19	22.42	7-29	1		
24 F M Bates (Essex)	255.5	76	607	27	22.46	6-85	1		
25 S D Thomas (Gloucestershire)	157.1	27	251	29	22.66	6-95	1		

Source: ECB/PFA Cricket Records

GOLF

Elevation of Els ranks as open and shut case

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ERNEST ELS has received his due reward for winning the US Open Championship and a leading tournament in the United States in successive weeks. He has been named the world No 1, supplanting Tiger Woods, who had replaced Greg Norman last week. Els is the first South African to head the world rankings.

Els's record in the Buick Open at Westchester, outside New York, is rivaling his success at Wentworth, where he is unbeaten in three years of competing in the World Matchplay Championship over the West course. He has led at Westchester since the start of the event last year. He is 46 under par for the four tournaments played there. On Sunday, he finished 16 under par and won by two strokes, from Jeff Maggert.

"If there are horses for courses, this probably is my golf course," Els said. "Obviously I love the place. As to leading the rankings, I must say that is quite a surprise. I'm not sure what to say. I struggle for six months and then win two tournaments and am named No 1. But, right at this exact moment, yes, I probably am No 1. I've never said that before."

Woods finished 43rd at the same event, continuing a disappointing run for him. He has broken par only once in his past 12 rounds. He said that he is tired and plans a week fishing at home in Florida to recover some of his enthusiasm for the game. "I have run myself into the ground," he said.

He returns to competition at the Western Open at the start of next month before travelling to Scotland for the Open Championship, at Royal Troon, from July 17-21.

Woods will be joined there by 48 of the world's leading 50 players. Jumbo Ozaki is the only one not to have entered the Open. Twelve former Open champions are among the record entry of 2,133 players - only Jack Nicklaus and John Daly still have to confirm that they will be playing.

Nicklaus will base his decision on whether he feels he will be competitive, though a decent showing in the US Open should convince him that he can still be. Daly, the 1995 champion, is taking time off from golf to recover physically and mentally after his recent problems with alcohol. He walked out of the US Open after 27 holes.

RUGBY UNION

England sponsor pulls out

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU), which has severed relationships with two of its longest standing sponsors within the past few months, is to lose a third with the withdrawal of Save and Prosper from its support of England matches played at Twickenham.

The insurance group, which has sponsored England's home games for 12 years at a cost of some £10 million (including the less financially attractive games and the Midlands Sevens), is cutting its ties as a direct result of the RFU's agreement with satellite television. It has sought to adjust its contract now that BskyB (the company that is part owned by News International, owner of The Times), is to screen Twickenham internationals five next season.

Save and Prosper follow the brewers, Courage, who have ended their ten-year sponsorship of the national leagues, and Pilkington, who have supported the knock-out cup competition since 1988. Courage have been replaced by Allied Dunbar, so far as the first and second divisions are concerned.

It's very regrettable but we just couldn't find a way of coming to an agreement with them, says Peter Roney, the chief executive of Save and Prosper said.

"We had to assess what the value now is but, at the same time, it was still unclear who the terrestrial [television] partner would be and even the kick-off times. These are essential facts. We would like to have seen an adjustment of the costs of the sponsorship because the impact has been reduced."

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

FOOTBALL: McMENEMY DENIED CHANCE TO RETURN TO THE DELL

Southampton give Jones opportunity to step up

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

SOUTHAMPTON presented their new manager at The Dell yesterday and, in David Jones, 40, they have one of the best of the new generation. Last season, his Stockport County side won promotion to the first division of the Nationwide League and reached the semi-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup, disposing of such distinguished opposition as Blackburn Rovers, West Ham United and Southampton themselves in the process.

With Graeme Souness long gone, having joined Torino in Italy after his resignation from the manager's position last month, and after a search for a replacement that had taken in David Platt, the Arsenal and England player, among others, Southampton turned to the former Everton defender. Their offer, Jones said yesterday, was "an opportunity I couldn't turn down".

"I set my target to be in the Premiership in three or four years," he said. "I've got there in two and a bit. How could I

turn it down? I leave Stockport in very good shape and wish them all the best, but now I am beginning a new season with Southampton."

Asked whether it might be a little more difficult for him now that he was to run a club that would not always be, as Stockport were in the Coca-Cola Cup, the underdogs, Jones replied that, after Stockport had knocked out Blackburn Rovers: "We were actually favourites in some games. I'm looking forward to it. There are a lot of bigger clubs than Southampton, so we'll have to see how we play them."

Explaining how Stockport had conquered Southampton, Jones said drily: "We scored two goals and Southampton only scored one. At the end of the day, we always thought at Stockport that, if we performed to the best of our ability and the Premiership side didn't, we had a chance. And Southampton didn't."

Southampton still have other matters on their mind. Lawrie McMenemy, a fixture

at The Dell for so many years — apart from his unhappy parenthesis as No 2 to the former England manager, Graham Taylor — resigned somewhat impulsively in the wake of Souness's departure. He wanted to make his way back again, but his way has been blocked.

Rupert Lowe, the new Southampton chairman, regretted it, he said yesterday, given McMenemy's longevity and success at Southampton, but this was a new, young team — John Sainty, Jones's assistant at Stockport, is joining him at The Dell — and, besides, McMenemy had quit at a very delicate moment.

There is the question of whether Southampton will sue either Souness or the Torino club, since Souness still had more than two years left on his contract when he resigned — charitably, Lowe said that this was unlikely — and the future of Phil Boersma, Souness's assistant. Reports in Italy insist Boersma will follow him to Turin, although Jones said

yesterday that this was news to him. There is also the club's still unrealised ambition of moving to a new stadium, something Lowe would ideally like to achieve as early as 1999, with Jones, who has been given a four-year contract, still in charge of the team.

That team, Lowe added, would, with luck, still include the maverick talents of Matthew Le Tissier. For his part, Jones said: "I admire Matthew and I look forward to working with him and I hope he looks forward to working with me." Indeed he is, according to Lowe, and is about to discuss extending his contract, which expires at the end of the coming season.

Asked whether he would try to bring any of his resilient players from Stockport, Jones answered, somewhat cautiously: "We'll look at a lot of players, but, at the moment, I've got no plans to take anybody from Stockport." Stockport will get £200,000 in compensation from Southampton for losing their manager, however.



Jones settles into his new workplace at The Dell yesterday

Gray's rejection dismays Everton

By DAVID MADDOCK

DISBELIEF turned to simmering anger at Goodison Park yesterday after Andy Gray decided that he did not, after all, wish to become the manager of Everton.

To say the news comes as something of a surprise is a glib understatement. Gray applied for the job and pursued it with some vigour, talking passionately of his desire to return to management. He even went so far as drawing up a putative backroom staff, which, significantly, precluded the installation of Howard Kendall alongside him as an experienced overseer.

A formal offer followed on Friday and that is when the doubts began. Yesterday, in accepting a substantially improved contract with BSkyB television, Gray admitted that he worried about his ability to manage such a club. "My heart wanted me to take the job, but my head has been telling me different things. Is a season as assistant manager with Aston Villa the right grounding for an important job such as this?"

Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, responded first

with incredulity and then an equal amount of hostility as he learnt of Gray's decision. He felt, he said, betrayed by yesterday's events, given the former Everton player's original enthusiasm.

"I'm aghast that he could behave like this. It is quite difficult to believe," Johnson said. "It is very difficult to take in. Andy Gray applied for the job and started talking about it. It would be totally unfair for people to criticise us about this situation. We are nothing other than the totally wronged party in this episode. I'm amazed that he can behave in such a manner."

Johnson called an emergency board meeting last night to pick through the debris of yesterday's events, but Everton, three months after the departure of Joe Royle, are no nearer to filling their managerial vacancy. Howard Kendall was rejected in favour of Gray and his words at the weekend to the supporters of Sheffield United, his present club, will make a move difficult. Likewise, Bobby Robson, another long-term target, has apparently ruled himself out.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Lindsay resolves to narrow gap

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE fact that Europe lags far behind Australasia, underlined by a procession of defeats in the world club championship group stages, has caused understandable concern for the future of the game at international level.

While Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive and chairman of the Super League International Board (SLIB) remains hopeful that Europe might yet have a representative in the final, on October 18 in Australia, it is only the contrived nature of the competition that keeps that particular possibility alive.

"No matter how resounding the beatings, Europe is guaranteed four quarter-finalists, while Australasian sides can win all six of their group games and still find themselves excluded from the lucrative knock-out stages. It is the game in Britain and France, however, that is suffering and is being forced to wake up to some harsh realities."

Lindsay said: "We have witnessed the fact that rugby league in Australia has moved ahead yet again. Last time Great Britain toured Australia, in 1992, we actually beat nearly every club side we played. Clearly, since the advent of Super League, standards there have risen dramatically."

"Once the supporters in this country get over the disappointment of their own clubs' performances, they will see a fresh determination by everyone to match the Australian standards."

John Ribot, the SLIB vice-chairman, said that standards

in Britain had improved, but not to the level of the Australasian Super League. "This competition has been criticised by some because the British sides have failed to win enough games. We believe, however, that the competition will help Britain in the long term as the coaches and players realise the need to raise their standards."

Castleford Tigers' recent championship defeat at Wheldon Road by Hunter Mariners was Lee Crooks's last as a player. The former Great Britain prop, 33, who made 18 international appearances, confirmed his retirement yesterday because of a long-standing knee problem.

His playing days began in 1980 at Hull, his boyhood club, for whom he made more than 200 appearances. He had a less productive spell at Leeds before a move seven years ago to Castleford, which revived a glittering career.

At the height of Hull's powers, Crooks won every domestic honour, including a Challenge Cup winners' medal, in 1982. He returned to Wembley ten years later with Castleford, during Wigan's Cup reign, but revenge was exacted in Castleford's memorable defeat of Wigan in the 1994 Regal Trophy final. A prodigious point-scoring record comprised 74 tries and 1,050 goals in 508 games at club, representative and international level.

Crooks, who will remain at Castleford in a coaching capacity, said: "It has been a tough decision to make but it is good to finish at the top."

Better Broncos keep Bulldogs on leash

Canterbury Bulldogs..... 34
London Broncos..... 18

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

LONDON Broncos have not quite buckled to the extent that some other British sides have in the lopsided world club championship; indeed, their confidence about the return match against Canterbury, on August 1, might be justified.

Optimism, boastfulness even, are not normally traits of Tony Currie in defeat, but the London coach was upbeat in his assessment. "I think it was a pretty good turnaround after a 66-point defeat at Canterbury," he said. "I think we'll beat Canterbury in London, big time."

The Sydney-based side lost to Wigan Warriors and they showed a vulnerable tendency at Belmore Oval yesterday. In a one-sided competition, respectability is a triumph of sorts and the Broncos, outscored by five tries to four, emerged with their credibility preserved.

When they might have been overwhelmed, their response to a 20-4 deficit at half-time was two quick tries on the wings by Offiah and Roskell. Had Matterson managed to convert those from the touch-line, and an earlier score by Krause, it could have been interesting, but Canterbury pulled clear a second time and were indebted to the faultless

place kicking of Halligan, who landed seven goals.

Privately, several Super League coaches doubt whether the domestic game can do any more than lick its wounds before the second series of group games. Currie is less certain and will be demanding more than usual from his players. "We'll be uplifting all our ideas and lifting heavier weights. Change won't be immediate, but I think you'll see better performances against the visiting Australian teams," he said.

As three of Canterbury's tries stemmed from London's inability, generally, and that of Offiah in particular, to cope with high kicks, there is one obvious area for attention. As well as scoring one try and saving two, El Masri, twice pressured Offiah under the high ball to force Hetherington's second try and another by Ward. Despite conceding a further try by Norton, Shaun Edwards latched onto a kick-through by Matterson in a positive finish.

SCORERS: Canterbury: Tries: Hetherington (2), El Masri, Ward, Norton, Goals: Halligan (7). London: Tries: Krause, Offiah, Roskell, Edwards. Goal: Matterson.

CANTERBURY BULLDOGS: M Ryan, H El Masri, S Mariner, J Tinsu, D Halligan, C Potts-McIntyre, D McRae, M Newton, J Hetherington, S Price, S Gales, R Pelt, J Norton. Sub: J Pickering, S Hammond, S Ward, B Benger.

LONDON BRONCOS: T Tallett, S Roskell, D Krause, A Martin, M Offiah, S Edwards, J White, A Mestrov, R Beasley, M Satter, R Roskell, P Gall, T Matterson, Sub: R Bowden, M Dunford, A Hamilton, A Spencer.

Referee: W Hampton (Sydney).

And you thought Saturday was the longest day.

Forget ceremonies at Stonehenge. Today is the day when all true believers congregate at cricket grounds across the country to celebrate the start of the NatWest Trophy. The day when the faithful can do nothing but nervously watch and wait. And wait. To see if their side get through to the Second Round.

All we at NatWest can do is hope that, for some of you at least, today is the dawn of a new era.

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TENNIS: LEADING BRITON OVERCOMES NESTOR AND BURDEN OF EXPECTATION IN OPENING MATCH ON NEW No 1 COURT

Henman unbowed by weight of history

ROB HUGHES



If ever Tim Henman doubted that he is taking the weight of tennis history upon himself, Wimbledon disabused him of that notion yesterday. His opening round victory over Daniel Nestor, born a Yugoslav but based in Canada, was relatively easy, once he had broken the deadlock of the opening set tie-break, using his considerable service to prevail 13-11.

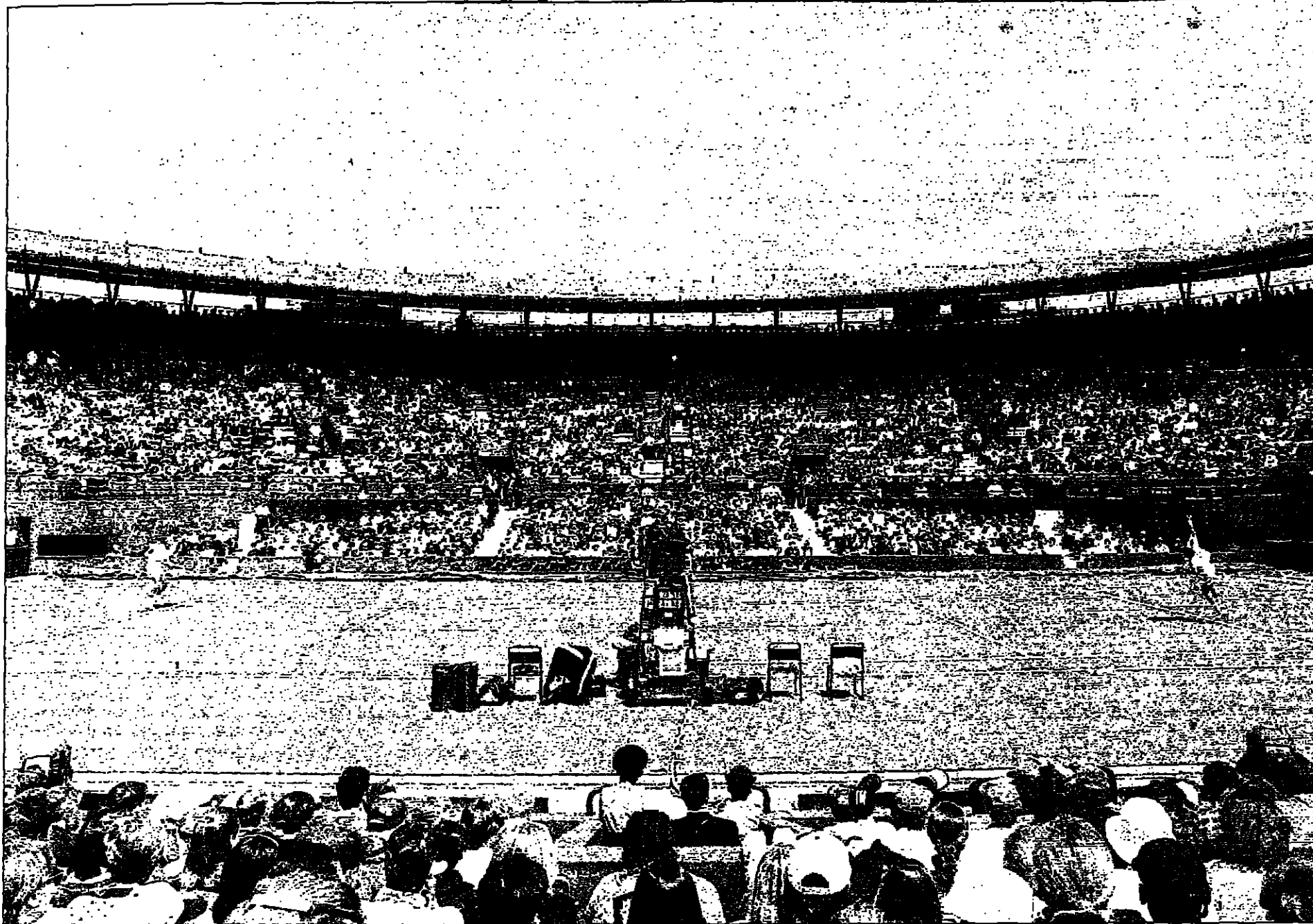
Thereafter, his confidence high, the game that took him to the quarter-finals last year beginning to flow back through his form, he swept Nestor aside 7-6, 6-1, 6-4.

That was to be expected, though, as his opponent had never broken into the top 100 on the ATP computer. However, Henman negotiated far more than a routine first win at this year's Wimbledon. He accepted the opportunity, the challenge to another Wimbledon move towards the next millennium, to become the first victor in a competitive match on Wimbledon's new £100 million, circular, 11,000-seat No 1 Court.

Before the match, the All England Club faced the occasion with a pantheon of 11 former champions, each of whom had won this tournament three or more times... just to add to the pressures on this 22-year-old's career. What was he doing when the great ones, from Louise Brough to Rod Laver, to the ecstatically-acclaimed John McEnroe were presented to Prince Michael of Kent and the crowd?

"I was winning a couple of games of backgammon," Henman said. "Actually, while the ceremony was on television in front of me, I knew that I had to avoid the distraction, just as I have to avoid reading too many newspapers. It's flustering that all this attention is on me, and I understand it, but I can't afford to let it interfere with my concentration."

Indeed not, otherwise Henman would lose another



Henman serves to Nestor during the first competitive match on the new No 1 Court at Wimbledon yesterday. Henman won in straight sets after a first-set tie-break.

year, another opportunity to gain ground, maybe even one day to win the tournament, and thus to fill the yearning void in a British sport that has been laid to rest with Fred Perry. Henman needs no more reminders that Perry, in the 1930s, was the last British male singles champion.

Had Henman dared to watch the ceremony to baptise No 1 Court, he would have seen the delicacy and dignity with which Wimbledon greets its former greats. He would have seen how age certainly wears the sporting gods, how it puts a crease here and there in the brow, slows the athletic stride, greys the temples of even a former enfant terrible, McEnroe.

Yet there is always the pride, the sense of honour and, as each of these revisiting friends of the place received a commemorative salver, it was touching to see the pleasure in their faces. Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Margaret Court... and behind them, in a city banker's pinstriped suit, straight-backed with the sense of honour, Boris Becker, who hopes, yet, to win again in this tennis museum.

Also among them was John Newcombe, who provided some unscheduled entertainment when he stumbled on the edge of the red carpet as he walked over to collect his salver. Then McEnroe raised a laugh by feigning surprise when he was introduced as the

man who had introduced a new phrase into the English language. The American's trademark lament — "You cannot be serious" — seemed particularly appropriate when the showers arrived to spoil Henman's entrance.

Indeed, it seemed that even the climate wished to make a statement. For the ceremony, perfect weather: as soon as Henman and Nestor began to warm up, the first pitter-patter of rain fell. It sent everyone scurrying beneath stairs, Jackie Stewart, another supreme British champion, among them, another searching pair of eyes that would return when the clouds allowed them back, to examine the British prospect.

The first set, with each player mixing aces with double faults, each as erratic as the day, took 50 minutes. But once Henman had negotiated that, once they resumed after rain when he led 1-0 in the second set, it was clearly Henman who had benefited from the agonising wait, the silent communion as the players sit side by side in the small players' room.

It wasn't just British expectation that attended Henman on court yesterday. Nick Bollettieri had broadcast his view, a somewhat extreme and outrageous one, that Tim Henman plays the game like Pete Sampras, that he is some kind of a British version of the Greek-American power in the

game. It is unnecessary, as well as untrue.

Beating Nestor, the only opponent he had to overcome yesterday, Henman somewhat early on proved his was the greater resolve, and the greater all-round game. He did it on crucial points, he raised his standard when it was necessary, he served 15 aces.

But a Sampras? Did we ever see that American pushing impatiently harder than he needs, attempting to hit winners from situations where it is best to show a little patience, to trust in the tempo of the contest, to score heavily when the time is right? Henman is on the learning curve.

He came back positive after the rain-break, the winner

over not only of a visitor he was fully expected to vanquish, but over the internal struggle, the search for concentration, that holds Britain's No 1 back from fulfilment.

In an hour and 45 minutes of playing time, his duty was done. He finished with an overhead volley, a fine serve and volley, and then, having the courage to go with a deep second service on match point, Henman prevailed.

It was relief rather than sheer joy. He knows the journey has hardly begun, he knows that if he ever does emulate Fred Perry, never mind the pantheon of champions paraded before him yesterday, he will live and die an exalted human being.

RESULTS FROM FIRST DAY

Men's singles
Winner: £415,000
Runner-up: £207,500
Holder: R Krajicek (Hol)
First round:
T. HENMAN (GB) bt D. Nestor (Can) 7-6, 6-1, 6-4
A. Pavel (Rom) bt F. Dewulf (Bel) 6-1, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3
A. Richardson (GB) bt S. Duran (Sp) 7-6, 6-3, 6-3
J. Vliegenhart (Bel) bt M. Gollner (Ger) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6, 7-5
R. KRAJICEK (Hol) bt M. Cressa (Ger) 7-6, 6-2, 6-4
C. MOYA (Sp) bt S. Bryan (US) 7-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3
J. P. Flavia (Arg) bt M. Damm (Cze) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2
B. Steven (NZ) bt L. Roux (Fr) 6-2, 6-2, 7-6
G. VANANDE (Cze) bt D. Pizzicini (Rom) 6-1, 6-3, 6-3

MEN'S DOUBLES Qualifying round:
B. Wood and P. Tarrasch (Aust) bt B. Behrens (US) and C. Haggard (SA) 6-7, 6-4, 7-5
D. Daurio (US) and R. Smith (Bah) bt P. Lavigne and S. Simek (Fr) 6-7, 7-5, 6-6
R. Koppert (SA) and A. Rupp (US) bt D. Norman (Bel) and K. Thome (US) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3

Women's singles
Winner: £173,500
Runner-up: £186,750
Holder: S. Graf (Ger)
First round:
M. Maleeva (Bul) bt J. P. P. (GB) 6-1, 6-3
D. Chladkova (Cze) bt S. Kishineva (Cze) 7-6, 6-4
L. DAVENPORT (US) bt T. Jones (US) 6-7, 6-3, 6-2
I. MAULITZKY (Cze) bt M. Diaz Oliva (Arg) 2-6, 6-0, 6-0
I. SPILRER (Rom) bt H. Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-0
G. Loran Garcia (Sp) bt M. Endo (Japan) 6-3, 6-3
C. Torrens-Valero (Sp) bt G. Pizzichini (It) 1-6, 6-3, 6-4

Statistics

From the days a century ago when there were just a few spectators to watch a handful of matches, Wimbledon has grown to the stage where armies of officials, caterers, groundstaff, ball boys and girls and security staff now work for at least 12



hours a day. The 13-day tournament now requires:

- 368 security guards and commissioners
- 330 court officials, including 45 chair umpires covering 18 courts
- 122 ball boys and girls
- 230 drivers to move players and officials to and from the club
- 1,400 caterers serving 30,000 portions of fish and chips, 60,000lb (27,000kg) of strawberries and 12,500 bottles of champagne

ATP RANKINGS: 1. P. Sampras (US) 4,745pts; 2. M. Chang (US) 3,706; 3. G. Loran Garcia (Sp) 2,881; 4. T. Muster (Aust) 2,724; 5. R. Krasak (Hol) 2,648; 6. Y. Katsenoun (Russ) 2,346; 7. A. Corretja (Spa) 2,208; 8. S. Bruguera (Spa) 1,719; 9. T. Enqvist (Swe) 1,748; 10. M. Rios (Chil) 2,052; 11. C. Moya (Sp) 2,055; 12. G. Kuerten (Bel) 1,851; 13. M. Hingray (Frc) 1,845; 14. A. Costa (Sp) 1,820; 15. F. Santoro (It) 1,724; 16. A. Bencic (Spa) 1,705; 17. R. Kishineva (Cze) 1,700; 18. B. Becker (Ger) 1,652; 19. A. Medvedev (Ukr) 1,613; 20. T. Henman (GB) 1,580; 21. T. M. Nijman (Ned) 1,535; 22. W. Ferreira (SA) 1,447; 23. J. Bjorkman (Swe) 1,431; 24. P. Korda (Cze) 1,424; 25. B. Ullrich (Cze) 1,355; 26. M. Rusea (Swe) 1,278; 27. G. Rusedski (GB) 1,222; 28. J. Courier (US) 1,210; 29. A. Agassi (US) 1,202; 30. J. Schuster (Aust) 1,180; 31. M. Pechach (GB) 1,154; 32. C. Wilkinson (GB) 1,137; 33. A. Richardson (GB) 1,108; 34. D. Sestieri (GB) 1,103; 35. M. MacLagan (GB) 1,103; 36. M. Loe (GB) 1,077; 37. C. Beucher (GB) 1,077.

WTA RANKINGS: 1. M. Hingray (Swe) 5,169,000pts; 2. S. Graf (Ger) 3,451,000; 3. J. Novotna (Cze) 3,181,000; 4. M. Salas (US) 3,160,000; 5. J. Mayke (Cze) 2,653,000; 6. A. Sanchez-Vizcarra (Spa) 2,551,000; 7. A. Coster (SA) 2,539,000; 8. L. Davenport (US) 2,513,000; 9. M. Rios (Chil) 2,500,000; 10. A. Hulse (Ger) 2,522,188; 11. C. Martinez (Spa) 1,999,000; 12. I. Spilker (Rom) 1,905,000; 13. J. F. Ferrer (US) 1,799,000; 14. L. P. (US) 1,603,000; 15. B. G. (US) 1,554,000; 16. L. (US) 1,554,000.



Ivanisevic beat Pescariu in straight sets

Anti-hero returns as Mr Nice Guy

Michael Calvin finds Jeff Tarango on his best behaviour in front of a suspicious audience



Tarango collects his thoughts during a restrained display yesterday

The members of the All England Club, sipping afternoon tea on the ivy-clad balcony overlooking No 4 Court, looked down on a shuffling figure dressed in pristine white as if they were studying bacteria in a petri dish. They did not know whether to be fascinated by Jeff Tarango, or be appalled by what he has come to represent.

Rebels at Wimbledon are only sanctioned officially if they are sanitised by the passage of time. So, when John McEnroe was introduced at the self-conscious celebrations that marked the inauguration of No 1 Court earlier in the day, he was treated with the affection reserved for a troublesome scamp who grew up into a solid citizen.

Tarango, on trial during his first-round match against the French qualifier Rodolphe Gilbert, is another ball game entirely. He may appease the purists by being a sponsor-free zone, but that is because the corporate culture instinctively rejects a moderately successful tennis player who is globally renowned for being several strawberries short of a punnet.

He is a true child of Manhattan Beach, California, where the height of non-conformity is to wear a suit

and vote Republican. A philosophy graduate who evidently considers himself one of the world's great undiscovered novelists, he is the antithesis of tennis dubiosity. He has more in common with an eccentric like Swampy than a champion like Sampras.

His one-man campaign against authority reached its nadir — some would say its natural conclusion — when he was banned from Wimbledon last year for stalking off court during his third-round match with Alexander Mironov in 1995, having impugned the reputation of the umpire, Bruno Rebeuh. Tarango's wife, Benedicte, added her weight to his protests by punching the bemused French official, whose discomfort was hardly eased by Tarango's immediate observation: "I'm glad you did that."

The American soon discovered that the cost of his 15 minutes of infamy extended beyond his eventual \$15,500 fine. Every nuance of mental fragility that could be summoned from his past, a hit list that included his habit of screaming at

recalcitrant tennis halls and a shorts-dropping incident in Tokyo, was monitored in the public prints. "It kind of worked against me," he admits. "People now think I'm going to be this raving maniac. I'm not sure who is more helpless out there, me or the umpire. I wear it on my sleeve. There are pros and cons to that, but it's just the way that life is. Think about it too much and it will screw you up."

He was politeness personified yesterday, whispering "excuse me" when he required a refill for his plastic bottle of orange juice. He was even on first-name terms with the Australian umpire, Wayne McKewen. The only tangible sign of emotion came when he clenched his right fist, after breaking Gilbert in the decisive eighth game of the first set.

This, of course, came as a great disappointment to the crowds thronging the walkway beside No 4 Court. Despite its supposed predilection for impeccable manners, Wimbledon thrives on discord. There is a zoo-like quality to

the outside courts, where every throwaway comment, delivered by-passing strangers, is amplified.

Others have a different agenda. Tarango's fellow professionals disowned him at the French Open in Paris, when he committed the cardinal sin of openly mocking an opponent, mimicking Thomas Muster's rolling gait and serving underarm. The Austrian, outraged, refused to shake hands at the end of the match.

Yet he is acutely aware that such indiscretions will matter little this week. In an era of increasingly conventional characters, he has been selected to play the traditional role of anti-hero. He will still be known as the man who dared to challenge the sacred conventions of the All England Club.

"I was a bad boy. I know," he said. "My mom told me so. It was a bad thing for sport and I have this stigma hanging over me. If it was in New York, people would have said: 'Oh, there's a whole lot of yelling going on over there.' But, in England, they love a scandal. The tennis organisations made it look like I was this criminal. I don't think it was fair at all... Life, of course, is not fair. Especially in London SW19."



ADVANTAGE HENMAN.



GO THE DISTANCE

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CHANGING TIMES

Driven to first-day distractions by the missing giant strawberry

LYNNE TRUSS



Kickin' and Screaming

In the car park farthest from the All England Club, a hot-air balloon in the shape of a strawberry was steadily inflating, and a light drizzle was falling. It was a restful sight. Very English. Ten o'clock in the morning, and all was well.

The odd thing was, I never saw that strawberry again. The first day of Wimbledon, for someone who has never attended before, can be a supremely disorientating experience, and the non-appearance of that one sure thing — albeit a gigantic and unnecessary soft fruit — became a kind of symbol for the day. When lost or demoralised at the All England Club, remembering to head for the green buildings was never a reliable system, for a start. Everything at Wimbledon is green.

Of course, apart from the new No 1 Court, it's all familiar from the telly. The rain, the queues outside, the shouts of joy when a formerly unknown Brit attains the pinnacle of his game. One thing I was well-prepared for was eavesdropping on the crowds on neighbouring courts, on those doubtless frequent occasions when they are witnessing a better game. But it's funny how, over years of seeing these aerial shots of "out on No 17 Court" — and the cunning placing of Des Lynam in front of a panoramic window — no map of the place has ever been created in one's mind.

What you can't help noticing is those little vignettes the BBC always strings together under a corny song for cloudburst interludes. Children asleep; balls bouncing off the umpire's chair; rabbits running across the court — that kind of thing. Next to me on the benches alongside No 4 Court (A Richardson v S Duran), a woman offered a box of *crudités* to her husband, and it felt just like a BBC moment to me.

Crudités. I ask you. Nothing could make you more nostalgic for the football terraces. But, at the same time, it was a real treat to watch sport in hushed silence. The man who selected a stick of carrot held it



Henman has no security worries as he makes his entrance on the new No 1 Court

until the players changed ends before he munched it. A pin dropping would not perhaps rouse comment alongside No 4 Court, but early quiet is certainly at. At most football matches you could drop a whole haberdashery shop, and nobody would notice.

Coming clean about things. I'll admit I found it hard to stick with the tennis. Showers interrupted, and besides, Wimbledon appears to be a sort of *mélée* — loads of stuff

going on everywhere. While Henman was battling for the first set on No 1 Court (exciting tie-break), people were strolling about outside, browsing in the museum and the shop, buying pints, humming and having over whether to buy the special Wimbledon cushion for alleviating numbness of bum. A few people were gathered under a scoreboard to see how the greatest Tim of all time was getting on, but many were unconcerned.

There's no focus yet, that's the problem. You have to accept that you'll see much less than you'll miss.

As a case in point, I hared along to No 1 Court to see Henman win the first set. I'd had a nice seat there earlier, but — it's a long story — had been ejected from the opening ceremony on grounds of not being Dutch (I think). Arriving during the Henman-Nestor tie-break, I was now refused admittance on the grounds

that this was a stupid moment to push into a seat.

Fair enough. So, standing in a tunnel at the bottom of some stairs, I listened in frustration to the increasingly exciting score, easily judged by the Oohs and Ahs. "Wow, 10-9," I said, even though I couldn't see a thing. "Gosh, ten-all." Luckily, the man waiting immediately ahead of me on the stairs was extremely old and infirm, and had bow-legs. I could therefore see an enticing segment of crowd, by peering between them.

Back with our lesser hope on No 4 Court, Richardson had a more than creditable straight set win, interrupted by only one shower — but somewhat murred aesthetically by the fact that his opponent, on tiptoe, reached just about to his collar-bone.

Next to me on the bench was a woman so anxious about this tiny first-round match that she was pretty certainly his mother. "Oh, Andrew," she gasped occasionally. But most of the time she fixed her gaze on the floor, in an attitude of supplication. If it had been a football match, I could have spoken to her. But it was Wimbledon, so I just pretended to be masticating carrot, very, very quietly.

'He held his carrot until the players changed ends before he munched it'

So it wasn't an idyll. And I never saw the strawberry again, which hurt. Seeing Henman forge ahead in the second set was pleasant, especially as I could see what he was up against — on top of the obvious. A peculiar high-pitched whistle was audible for several games, a noise suggestive of an enormous light-bulb that's just about to give out. Rain clouds hovered. A bizarre staff announcement rang out. Close to, Henman looked poignantly youthful, like a teenager. That's often the way with sportsmen.

On a final note, I have to say the single most impressive thing about Wimbledon is the boldness, nay the staunchness of the club's adherence to the colour purple during all its years in the wilderness.

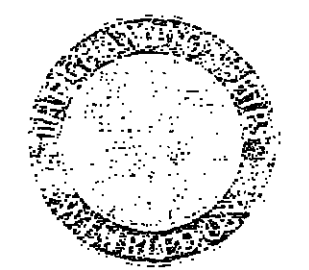
Whoever thought purple would be rehabilitated? But it is rather chic these days, and suddenly all the green-and-purple stuff in the Wimbledon Club Shop looks fabulous. At football shops, I have, of course, been tempted by Bristol City curtains — tie-backs extra — though I have never succumbed. But some of this All England stuff would fit into my home with alarming ease.

Gentleman Edberg content to remain the retiring type

ONE familiar figure who will not be in action at Wimbledon this year — and not because of injury — is that gentleman of tennis, Stefan Edberg. Edberg was only 30 when he gave up playing after the Davis Cup final against France in December last year.

The impressive Swede, who has made his home in London, won Wimbledon in 1988 and 1990, was the world No 1 for 72 weeks in the early 1990s and played in a record 54 successive grand-slam tournaments, ending his great run at the US Open in 1996.

Edberg's behaviour on court was impeccable but his modesty was even more pronounced. After winning the title in 1988, he was worried he would no longer be able to shop at Harrods in case he was recognised.



But he does not want Ivanisevic to get involved in a long five-set match, where his figure of 42 aces could go by the board.

Laver, the great Australian player, So it is not surprising that he has even greater incentive than usual to win the men's singles again. Victory on Sunday week would mean he would join his hero as one of only three men in the modern era to lift the trophy on four occasions.

Laver, a left-hander nicknamed Rocket, achieved that feat in the 1960s and Bjorn Borg won five times in succession from 1976-80. Sampras, still only 25, could leave them far behind in the coming years, if he continues to maintain his form.

In fact, you would get short odds about him eventually equalling Willie Renshaw's record of seven victories accumulated a hundred years ago, between 1881-1889.

Four Pete Pete Sampras, the world No 1, three times Wimbledon champion and hot favourite with the bookmakers again this year, grew up idolising Rod

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Watching the watchers

United Kingdom Royal Watchers BBC2, 9.00pm

Colin Edwards, a middle-aged man who lives in a modest terrace house in Macclesfield, is either very sad or perfectly fulfilled according to your point of view. His hobby, nay obsession, is pursuing the Royal Family. The pursuit is in the best possible spirit. Edwards is nothing if not a monarchist and determined to show it on every possible occasion. His strategy is to get himself in the front row of the crowd as the royals prepare to go walkabout. We see him chatting up the Queen (his 65th encounter with her), reciting a poem to the Queen Mother and offering another poem, plus flowers and a book, to Diana, Princess of Wales. She clearly likes the attention and calls him Colin. The others, you suspect, find his blandishments a shade irksome but are far too courteous to show it.

My Brother Channel 4, 9.00pm

Last week we heard about sister relationships, now we have an equally engrossing film by Annette Clark about brothers. Her choice of subjects is hardly representative of brothers as a whole. But the strength of the film is not in trying to establish universal truths but in highlighting particular forms of love and tension. Roy and Ken Kemp are in their sixties, single and still live in the family home. For 30 years they were looked after by their sister. Then she developed Alzheimer's disease and they must look after her, which they do with tenderness and humour. Dominic Golden was 21 when he took his own life. Five years on his brother and sister still feel guilty that they were unable to give him more support. Finally we hear how Lloyd (13) and Steven (11) are affected by their sister's leukaemia.

We Are Not Alone: Sky Watchers ITV, 10.40pm

You cannot say that ITV is not trying its damndest to convince us that there is life beyond our planet, although the evidence is debatable and the proof non-existent. This latest contribution to the *Info the Unknown* season is the first of a two-part documentary about UFOs, aliens and alien abductions. The peg is the 50th anniversary to the



Loyal subject Colin Edwards (BBC2, 9.00pm)

day since an American pilot saw nine disc-shaped objects in the sky which gave rise to the term flying saucer. Sightings have continued ever since. Many have been by pilots, who might be considered to be credible witnesses. The film rounds up some of the more colourful episodes, from Nevada to Scotland and the former Soviet Union, and finds apparently respected figures, such as psychologists and academics, who are prepared to take alien visits seriously.

500 Bus Stops BBC2, 11.15pm

In a late-night entertainment that deserves to be screened earlier, the singer and songwriter John Shuttleworth sets off on a United Kingdom tour to prove that stardom begins at 55. But you soon realise that this is not the usual documentary. For nothing Shuttleworth has no talent. For another his first gig is booked for a Derbyshire reference library. And can he really have children called Karen and Darren, and what about that dragon of a wife who is much heard but never seen? Shuttleworth before will tell you that he is a spoof, the creation of a clever actor and comedian called Graham Fellows. But to be in on the joke is not to spoil it. In tonight's instalment Shuttleworth is forced to take the bus after his car breaks down but still gets to Iceland. The freezer centre of course, not the country. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Swings and Roundabouts Radio 2, 9.30pm

The past may seem rosier than it actually was, but I recall visiting fairgrounds as a boy without encountering the threatening atmosphere that is sometimes present now. But this programme combines a celebration of fairground culture with a look at the threats to its future without getting into some of the uglier aspects. The programme is assisted by having a producer who is steeped in the subject. Amber Dawson's parents and grandparents were born into fairground families. The threat to the fairground now is mainly from other social pressures: spaces that fairs used to occupy are increasingly given over to development. As the land available shrinks, rents rise and thus put further pressure on fairground businesses.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacz 8.30 Digital Update 9.00 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgis 4.00 Dave Pearce

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jenny Yang 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 Alan Freeman 8.00 Nigel Ogden 8.00 Nard Griffith presents Woody Guthrie 9.30 Swings and Roundabouts. See Choice 10.30 Richard Allison 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Charles Rowe

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 1.30 Wimbledon 97 6.30 Evening Session with Pat Murphy, Roger Black, David Lloyd and John McDermott 9.00 Murray and the Grand Prix World 9.30 The 21st Century and How to Survive It with Doreen, Diamond and F. Glover 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours with Vincent Hanna 2.00am Up All Night with Fred Shapp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rastum 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dickinson

Give a Dog a Bad Name Radio 3, 9.15pm

This is a new and welcome series which defends maligned reputations and will come as a great relief to those who are sneered at by elitists because their record collections include "popular" classics. The series is presented by David Owen Norris and the first programme deals with Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. The popularity of this piece surely rests on the fact that it is a huge, thumping, lively work which gets the adrenalin flowing, but of course the elitists use these very qualities to dismiss it as bombastic. Ironically, certain Radio 3 executives have used similar condemnation to dismiss Classic FM. Later programmes will deal with Nigella Kennedy, the composer Antonio Salieri and amateur musicians. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newshour 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Today 7.30 Hong Kong Imperial Orphan 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Pop Science 9.00 News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Radio 4 in German 9.20 European 10.00 Business 10.15 World of Television 10.20 Unleash Film 10.45 Sport 11.30 On Screen 12.00pm Hong Kong Imperial Orphan 1.00 News in German 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Health Matters 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newshour 3.05 Outlook 3.20 Wimbledon 4.05 Sport 4.15 Red House of Horror 4.30 World in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain 6.15 World 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 One Planet 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Magazine 9.00 Newshour 10.00 Business 10.15 World 10.30 Megamix 1.30 Farming World 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Discovery 2.30 Meridian Live 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Alan Mann 9.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto Vivaldi (Violin Concerto No 12 in B flat major, Brahms) Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor Op 15 No 2 in A minor Op 15 No 3 in E major Op 15 No 4 in E major Op 15 No 5 in E major Op 15 No 6 in E major Op 15 No 7 in E major Op 15 No 8 in E major Op 15 No 9 in E major Op 15 No 10 in E major Op 15 No 11 in E major Op 15 No 12 in E major Op 15 No 13 in E major Op 15 No 14 in E major Op 15 No 15 in E major Op 15 No 16 in E major Op 15 No 17 in E major Op 15 No 18 in E major Op 15 No 19 in E major Op 15 No 20 in E major Op 15 No 21 in E major Op 15 No 22 in E major Op 15 No 23 in E major Op 15 No 24 in E major Op 15 No 25 in E major Op 15 No 26 in E major Op 15 No 27 in E major Op 15 No 28 in E major Op 15 No 29 in E major Op 15 No 30 in E major Op 15 No 31 in E major Op 15 No 32 in E major Op 15 No 33 in E major Op 15 No 34 in E major Op 15 No 35 in E major Op 15 No 36 in E major Op 15 No 37 in E major Op 15 No 38 in E major 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deserves a dukedom at least. So far England has handed him a CBE.

"I'm still a bit in the dark," Rosenthal concluded, "about what writing is, apart from not knowing what to do with your arms and legs." Maybe that's the key to getting on in society: Boothby wrote exactly what to do with his arms and legs, provided he thought you were pretty enough.

Stopping by BBC2 on the journey from Boothby and Rosenthal, you caught *Hong Kong Shorts*, *Video Nation's* nod to next week's handover. Who better to ask what the colony's future holds than a fortune teller such as Chan Caisun of Kowloon: "I guess things won't be that bad, I mean, if you own a shop and you take it back, the most you would do is redecorate."

That depends, Chan, on what you redecorate with. Ever wondered about that blood-red-lacquer look they go mad for in Beijing?

Joe
Joseph



Downing Street? Not if it also exposed Tom Driberg — senior Labour MP, member of the National Executive — as a fellow homosexual who was once spotted at a racetrack with Boothby, importuning young boys.

With the connivance of Wilson and Wilson's "Mr Fbid", Arnold Goodman, Boothby was left in peace. The consequences were huge: the *Sunday Mirror*, which

If it were not for Boothby, and Driberg, and Wilson's hunger for power, and the Tories' eagerness to avoid a second scandal after John Profumo's resignation, the Krays might not have become such an ugly legend. It is a tale that underlines the cynicism of politicians, what it takes for the Establishment to connive in corruption, and how a charlatan such as Boothby could be fêted as a wag. Most preposterously, Boothby was made a peer by Harold Macmillan, whose wife, Dorothy, was Boothby's lover.

Jack Rosenthal, the first subject

Yet the chances are that Boothby's name still rings more bells in Britain than that of the author of *Bar Mitzvah Boy* or *Eskimo Day*. Rosenthal even wrote 129 episodes of the fledgling *Coronation Street* in 1961, having begun his working life at Granada as chief buyer of toilet-roll holders. The *Omnibus* programme subtitled *Jack, The Lad* was a warm film, narrated by Rosenthal himself, intercut with clips from his plays. If Boothby merited a peerage, Rosenthal

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BBC1	BBC2	HTV	CENTRAL	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
6.00am Business Breakfast (94417) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (74057) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8364724) 9.20 Chuggers' Challenge (3283908) 9.45 Kilroy (T) (9737095) 10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (26347) 11.00 News (T) (2896057) 11.05 Real Rooms Transforming a lacklustre Edwardian dining room (7705057) 11.30 The Great Escape Cairns, Australia (6250) 12.00 News (T) and weather (1358182) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5567786) 12.35 Neighbours (T) (4321502) 1.00 News (T) and weather (77144) 1.30 Regional News (15458573) 1.40 Wimbledon 97 The first round of the ladies singles (96732786) 4.10 Plasmo (8945983), 4.15 The New Yogi Bear Show (8937960), 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5101502), 4.35 Round the Twist (661512), 5.00 Newsworld (T) (8338095), 5.10 Act-U-Have (7095298) 5.35 Neighbours (T) (T) (605073) 6.00 News (T) and weather (279) 6.30 Regional News (231) 7.00 Summer Holiday The Caribbean island of St Lucia; Paris; and Los Gigantes on Gran Canaria (T) (7250) 7.30 EastEnders Bats are placed as grant and Nigel lumber up for Walford's answer to the Olympics (T) (415) 8.00 The Driving School Joan attempts to regain her confidence, signing up for another course of lessons; Maureen tries to put her sixth unsuccessful test behind her. Twins James and Victoria sail through the written exam and have a week to try their practical (T) (3298) 8.30 Only Fools and Horses Del updates Rodney by continually interfering in his blossoming love life (T) (2705) 9.00 News (T) and weather (1057) 9.30 The Broker's Man The Dutch hijackers plan a potentially lucrative container robbery, but are forced to flee when untoward events leave them with blood on their hands (T) (525873) WALLS 8.30 Week in Week Out (57705), 10.00 The Broker's Man (653326), 10.50 The X Files (910347), 11.35 FILM: Millennium (737927), 1.15 FILM: April Fool's Day (6827922), 2.40 News (9742449) 0.20 The X Files: One Breath Mauler learns that a comatose South has reappeared in hospital under mysterious circumstances (T) (970593) 1.05 Millennium (1989) A group of time travellers rescue disaster passengers from plane disasters in a bid to increase the future world's population. Sci-fi adventure with Kris Kristofferson, Cheryl Ladd and Daniel J. Travanti. Directed by Michael Anderson (476144) 2.45am April Fool's Day (1988) with Deborah Foreman and Griffin O'Neill. An heiress inherits a great deal of teenage friends to spend the weekend on her estate, where they are terrorised by a killer who takes the joke too far on April Fool's Day. Directed by Fred Walton (3954125) 2.10 Weather (2765477)	6.00am Open University: Seville — Gateway to the Indies (852434), 6.25 Dialogue in the Dark (8971569), 6.30 The Victorian High Church (7972298) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (1681279) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (6599673), 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (2781434), 8.20 The Brolys (2867521), 8.35 The Record (2331250) 9.00 Yesterday at Wimbledon (T) (T) (11148) 10.00 Teletubbies (66637) 10.30 Face to Face: Kate Adie (T) (125724), 11.10 See Heart (T) (7716163), 11.40 A-Z of Food (T) (6578673), 11.50 Johnson and Friends (6575057) 12.00 Wimbledon 97 Desmond Lynem and Sue Barker present action from Ladies Day on the second afternoon in SW19. Commentary by John Barrett, John Alexander, Chris Bailey and Pat Cash includes at 3.00pm and 3.55 News, regional news and weather (3680637) 8.30 Two Fat Ladies: Food in the Wild Dishes include shooters' sandwich, fritatta with onion and basil, and onion soup with Siltion and spiced eggs. Last in series (T) (6237) 9.00 United Kingdom! — Royal Watchers New series of programmes about people's passions and prejudices, beginning with an insight into the daily life of Colin, a retired civil servant and loyal monarchist (T) (2827) 9.30 Wimbledon Today Highlights of the second day's play (T) (78365) 10.28 Video Nation Hong Kong Shorts (742479) 10.30 Newsnight with Kirsty (T) (921453)	6.00am GMTV (9138811) 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (T) (3291827) 9.55 Regional News (T) (497860) 10.00 The Time, the Place (55163) 10.30 This Morning (T) (65322540) 12.20pm Regional News (T) (1339057) 12.30 News (T) and weather (4357927) 12.55 Shortland Street (4332618), 1.25 Home and Away (T) (9053589) 1.50 Liz Earle's Lifestyle New series (T) (3199144), 2.20 Winnetka Road (T) (5902540) 3.20 News (T) (3500724) 3.25 Regional News (T) (3509095) 3.30 Potamus Park (T) (3310182), 3.40 Wizardora (T) (8266163), 3.50 Old Bear Stories (8262347), 4.00 The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (T) (8187647), 4.20 Waynehead (T) (9664298), 4.45 Totally California (T) (8807434) 5.10 Highway to Heaven (2/2) (825892) 5.40 News (T) and weather (832379) 5.57 Pollen Count (539724) 6.00 Home and Away (T) (884786) 6.25 HTV Weather (156540) 6.30 The West Tonight (T) (927) 7.00 Emmerdale Jan makes an interesting proposition to Kim (T) (9518) 7.30 The Matthew Celebrations HM the Queen welcomes the Matthew in Newtownland (811) 8.00 The Bill The wife of a forgery suspect is arrested by Blake. Can Beesh persuade her to help him convict her husband? (T) (8366)  Paul McKenna (8.30pm)	As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (4332618) 1.50-5.40 Shortland Street (8225892) 6.25-7.00 Central News (951811) 7.30-8.00 Blenheim Palace (811) 1.40am Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (2062583) 2.15 Film: Matters of the Heart (1990). A made-for-television romantic drama starring Jane Seymour, directed by Michael Rhodes (451006) 3.55 The Big Match Replayed (5186323) 4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (6683796) 5.20 Asian Eye (4021361) WEST-COUNTRY As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (1354366) 12.55 Home and Away (554415) 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (23894502) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8225892) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (47328) 7.30-8.00 Waterlines (811) MERIDIAN As HTV West except: 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8225892) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (247) 6.29 Pollen Count (156540) 7.30-7.00 The Antiques Trail (927) 7.30-8.00 Arrive You Right Live (811) 5.00am Freescreen (55458) ANGLIA As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (1333873) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (4332618) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8225892) 6.23 Anglia Weather (164569) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (951811) 7.30-8.00 Heirloom (811) 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (711705) SAC Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (95637) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (90095) 9.00 Bewitched (13873) 9.30 Film: The Good Companions (13860637) 11.35 Springfield (4108144) 12.00 House to House (33637) 12.30pm Ricki Lake (80279) 1.00 Slot Meitirin (10036163) 1.15 Pingü (10031618) 1.30 Film: She (80502) 3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (705) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (540) 4.30 All at Sea (724) 5.00 S Pump (1304) 5.30 Countdown (796) 6.00 Newyddion (969502) 6.05 Heno (855892) 6.35 Jac yn y Cwm (130502) 7.00 Pabot y Ben (554453) 7.25 Tu Hwnt yr Ddaill (185750) 8.00 Rybiog y Llwyd o Free State (6908) 8.30 Newyddion (5415) 9.00 Rasmus (1569) 10.00 Brookside (237366) 10.35 NYPD Blue (474960) 11.30 Northern Exposure (615540) 12.25am My Sister (6709090)	6.00am Sesame Street (T) (85637) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (90095) 9.00 Bewitched (T) (13873) 9.30 The Good Companions (1933), b/w with Jessie Matthews, Edmund Gwenn and John Gielgud. Musical comedy based on the novel by J.B. Priestley about a small concert party facing ruin. Directed by Victor Saville (13680637) 11.35 Australia Wild Seal-watching (4108144) 12.00 House to House (33637), 12.30pm Caroline in the City (T) (60279), 1.00 Springhill (T) (23816724), 1.25 Hold Please. Short film about a clockwatching businessman (10055298) 1.40 My Blue Heaven (1950). Musical comedy starring Betty Grable and Dan Dailey. Directed by Henry Koster (T) (45101989) 3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Food series (T) (705), 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (6600521), 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5829369), 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (T) (796) 6.00 Friends Ross rushes to his former wife's side as she gives birth (T) (828328) 6.25 Fluke Game show (880347) 6.55 Fresh Pop (323434) 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (422144) 7.50 Grim Hours (151188) 8.00 Moving People John Peel introduces the last three stories of families moving house. Tonight, a single mother of five sells her house to pay off her debts; a Mansfield couple move to a nearby village for their retirement and a local radio DJ hopes his new home will improve his family life (T) (6908) 8.30 Brookside News of a new liaison spreads through the Close. Jacqui is at breaking point (T) (5415) 9.00 My Brother A look at three sets of brothers and the ties that bind them together (2/2) (T) (1569)  Ngor and Watson (10.00pm)	CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 83 on the Astra Satellite Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive

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RUGBY UNION 45

Miller looking to stake claim on Rodber's position

SPORT

FOOTBALL 47
Southampton lure Jones away from Stockport



TUESDAY JUNE 24 1997

British No 1 copes with expectations to provide fitting curtain-raiser for new court

Henman emerges in sunshine state

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

TIM HENMAN duly advanced into the second round at Wimbledon yesterday when he dismissed Daniel Nestor of Canada with a rare and refreshing authority. In a performance entirely reflective of the weather, Henman started as drably as the overcast sky but closed out the match with a flurry of clean winners under bright sunshine.

This was a significant hurdle for Henman, who was understandably tentative at the start. Yet from the moment he came through a difficult opening set on a tense tie-break, which he snaffled 12-11 on his fourth set point, Henman's stature increased with every stroke. The ignominy of a first-round exit is firmly behind him and he can now settle into the requisite rhythm to progress.

"I was a little bit nervous but I think that's a good thing," he said. "The first match can be a little bit difficult in any tournament, let alone the first round at Wimbledon. You have to find your feet. I am not getting carried away but I am very happy. I'm delighted to be through to the second round."

After his exploits 12 months ago, when he reached the quarter-finals, Henman entered the new No 1 Court to a rapturous reception. The expectancy seemed to weigh heavily on him as he struggled, initially, to impose himself on his opponent. Nestor opened the match with a first service winner, itself a fitting baptism for the new arena in this, the age of power tennis. But the Yugoslav-born right-hander offered little else, leaning heavily on his delivery to keep him afloat.

Henman arrived seemingly bent on putting Nestor to the sword. He swiftly broke his opponent in the third game by drilling a backhand down the line but Henman, whose form of late has been brittle, failed to consolidate, a couple of double faults and an unforced

error frittering away the advantage. From then the set headed inexorably towards a tie-break, which released Henman's juices as it throttled Nestor's spirit. It proved the turning point of the match.

Tie-breaks always generate ebb and flow; this was no exception as each player took turns to hold the advantage. However, what was so welcome about Henman's approach was the way he retrieved some precarious situations with positive play. On each occasion he started at a set point he responded with clinical precision, hitting service winners past Nestor where he had earlier struggled to find his range.

Henman came into Wimbledon still searching for the form which, in January, substantially raised his profile within the men's game. He looked out of sorts at Nottingham, and Queen's before that, but there was plenty of encouragement in the way he played the key points. "I think I've learnt from the way I've been playing recently," he said. "I had opportunities and I didn't make first serves. In those times I was behind in the tie-break today I took a little added attention to each serve. I was making a lot of big serves to get myself out of trouble." His tally of aces reached 15 by the close.

Kicking and Screaming 50
Simon Barnes 49
Henman unbowed 48
New Tarango 48

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The confidence Henman derived from winning the tie-break, in which he saved three set points, was evident thereafter. It is true that Nestor, never much better than erratic, was now a broken spirit. But Henman deserved credit for the way he progressed. "I thought to myself: 'Let's try to make life a little easier in the next couple of sets,'" he reflected.

"I've won a close first set and said: 'Let's go up a few gears'. I definitely did that." He certainly did. Henman breezed through the second set 6-1 and was always ahead in the third. An early break once again emphasised Henman's dominance and he closed out the contest with another imposing service game to prevail 7-6, 6-1, 6-4. It is encouraging that there remains considerable scope for improvement within Henman's game.

On a day truncated by rain, Richard Krajicek, the defending champion and projected to meet Henman in the last 16, looked in ominously destructive mood when he cantered to victory over Marcello Craca, of Germany, in straight sets. As with Nestor, Craca just about contained Krajicek in the opening set. From then on it was one-way traffic as Krajicek, of Holland, reminded the Centre Court crowd of his formidable serving powers.

Krajicek, seeded No 4, flew into Wimbledon only last night: he had yet to reacquaint himself with his territory. "I haven't seen the changes to the No 1 Court or anything," he said. "I won a match in Holland yesterday [Sunday], came straight here and then out to play. After winning here last year I felt a little bit nervous, so it was a great feeling to get through this match. It wasn't great to watch but these are the kind of matches you don't go looking for beauty prizes. I feel very confident."

He also handled with aplomb some barbed questions about the parade of champions on No 1 Court in advance of his traditional opening of the championships on Centre Court. He said the likes of Pete Sampras and

Boris Becker were entitled to be honoured, doubtless thinking to himself that the best way to join them was to match their achievement as triple winners. With his huge serve and a resurgence in his overall form, Krajicek looks ready to mount a robust defence of his title.

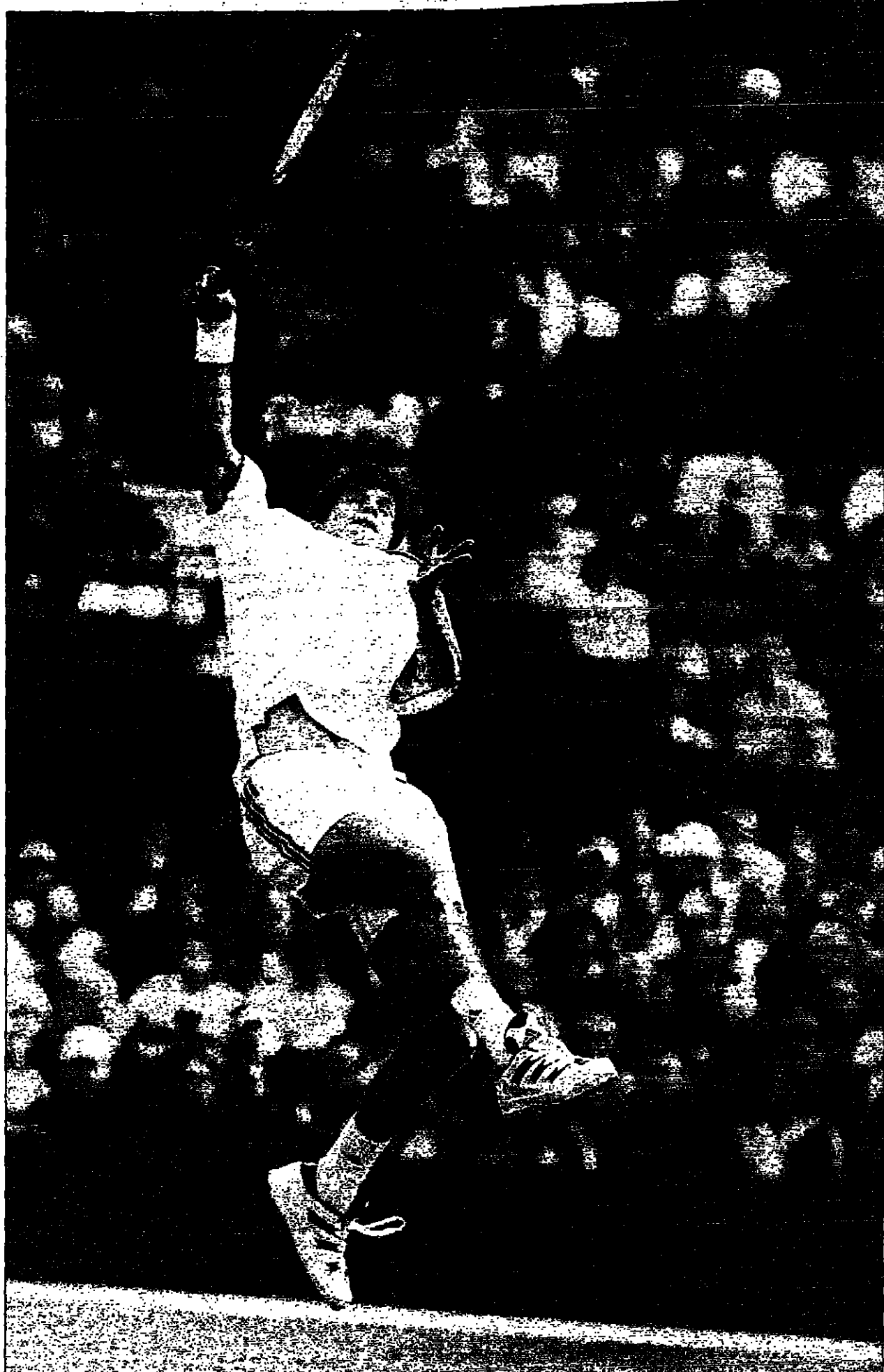
Another men's seed through in a hurry was Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, who completed his victory over Dinu Pescariu, of Romania, before the first break for rain soon after 1pm. Ivanisevic, yet to win a Grand Slam title, underlined why many believe he could end his drought this time. He prevailed for the loss of just seven games.

Henman was not the sole winner among British men. Andrew Richardson, a close friend of the British No 1, was an equally comprehensive winner over Sergi Duran, the Spaniard 7-6, 6-3, 6-3. At 6ft 7in, Richardson made maximum use of his considerable leverage in the eleven game of the opening set, crashing down four aces in the ultimate display of serving.

But Julie Pullin, a wild-card entrant among British women, only narrowly avoided the ignominy of Wimbledon's first loser in her match with Magdalena Maleeva, of Bulgaria. Pullin succumbed 6-1, 6-3 in just over an hour.

Among the women's seeds, Iva Majoli, the heroine of Paris, rallied strongly after tamely conceding the opening set to Mariana Diaz-Oliviera, of Argentina. The No 4 seed, angry when beaten on a minor court at Eastbourne last week, had little trouble thereafter, coming through 2-6, 6-0, 6-3.

Also through to the second round in the women's singles are Lindsay Davenport and Irina Spilrea, seeded No 12 and No 4 respectively. It was, in fact a productive day all round for the seeds in action. Carlos Moya, the beaten finalist in Melbourne but a first-round loser at Nottingham last week, wobbled slightly before brushing aside Steve Bryan, of the United States, 7-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.



Henman rises to the challenge on the first day of Wimbledon, smashing during his victory over Nestor



Richardson was fully extended, but not seriously troubled, during his defeat of Duran. Photograph: Gill Allen

England preserve series advantage

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

SO, NOW we know, R. E. S. Wyatt, the captain in 1934, will be the only man to lead England to victory over Australia in a Lord's Test this century. Michael Atherton, who broke the record of another distinguished predecessor, Peter May, in the second Test match is the latest in a long line of leaders who have found the men in baggy caps too resolute.

Atherton's own record at Lord's reflects the frustrations that England teams have endured down the years. Four years ago, he was run out for 99 after losing his footing attempting a third run.

Yesterday, he tried on his stumps after turning Michael Kasprizic for a single to long leg. He could not recall being dismissed in that way, man or boy. Although he felt

the interruptions for rain made the game unsatisfactory for players and spectators, Atherton was pleased by England's performance on the last day in securing a draw.

"There was only one result possible when play began, other than a draw, and the ease with which we batted

throughout the day was encouraging," he said.

Of Mark Butcher's 87, the captain thought his fellow opener had measured up to a "test of character" brought about by public discussion of his three previous failures with the bat.

"He is a good player and he has to believe in the game that has taken him to the top. You only learn to play Test cricket by spending time at the crease and he will have learnt more today than he has done so far in his career."

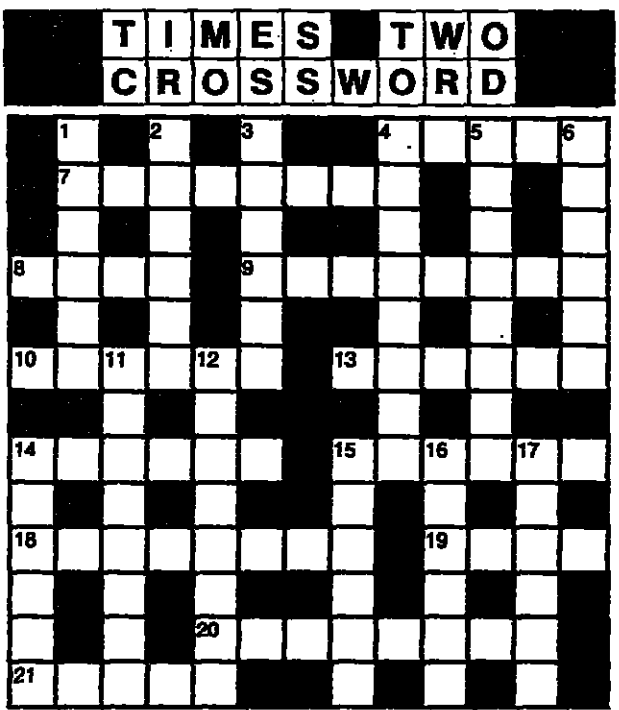
Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, was also pleased with the performance of his team. Apart from the eight wickets that Glenn McGrath took in the England first innings, and the hundred for Matthew Elliott, he thought that Paul Reiffel howled well and that Shane Warne was beginning to approach his best form. "I'd

like to see a match go five days, and see him bowl on the last day," he said.

It is 19 matches since Australia drew a Test and Taylor does not expect to see many more this summer. "There are four matches to go, and we can still win three of them. If we win one we'll be ahead in the series because we hold the Ashes. We're not at our best yet but we are closer than we were a week or so ago."

Australia have two games before the third Test to nurse some of their batsmen back into form, and to get their fastest bowler, Jason Gillespie, properly fit. All roads now lead to Old Trafford, where Peter Marron, the groundsman, has the job of preparing a pitch for the pivotal Test of the summer.

Test report, page 46
Minors hoping, page 46



- ACROSS**
- 1 Hundred-eyed giant: butterfly (5)
 - 7 (Weather) improving: glade (8)
 - 8 Retain: stronghold (4)
 - 9 How the agreed see (5,3,3)
 - 10 Of stars (6)
 - 13 Contention (6)
 - 14 Supporting column (6)
 - 15 Flying bro: Wilbur, Orville (6)
 - 18 Be like (8)
 - 19 A wine ship's window (4)
 - 20 Authorise: penalty (8)
 - 21 Warehouse (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Right of approach (6)
 - 2 Moderate: toughen by heat (6)
 - 3 1984 author: Ipswich river (6)
 - 4 Rabble-rouser (8)
 - 5 Word of welcome (5)
 - 6 Globe area (of interest) (6)
 - 11 Discuss business (eg at party) (8,4)
 - 12 Causing undue panic (5)
 - 14 Division of time (6)
 - 15 Miserable creature (6)
 - 16 Weaken, reduce (6)
 - 17 Taking on (staff) (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1127

ACROSS: 1 Vehemence 6 Wok 8 Leveret 9 Patio 10 Alas 11 Brooklyn 13 Thorax 14 Cicada 17 Pedestal 18 Edge 20 Guilt 21 Private 22 Rod 23 Enobarbus

DOWN: 1 Valiant 2 Have a good mind 3 Mark 4 Notary 5 Euphoria 6 Wattle and daub 7 Known 12 Cassette 15 Ageless 16 Sappho 17 Pager 19 Lima

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